THE STINGRAY by
Hibben & Ehler

EDC KNIFE SPECIAL ISSUE

BLADE

THE WORLD'S #1 KNI CATION

JANUARY 2025
WWW.BLADEMAG.COM

Kershaw Drivetrain
GiantMouse Sonoma V2 Carryology
Big Idea Design TI Lookout

SHARP AT YOUR SIDE

Blades With Multiple Sheath Options

No Job's Too Small For
COMPACT CUTTERS

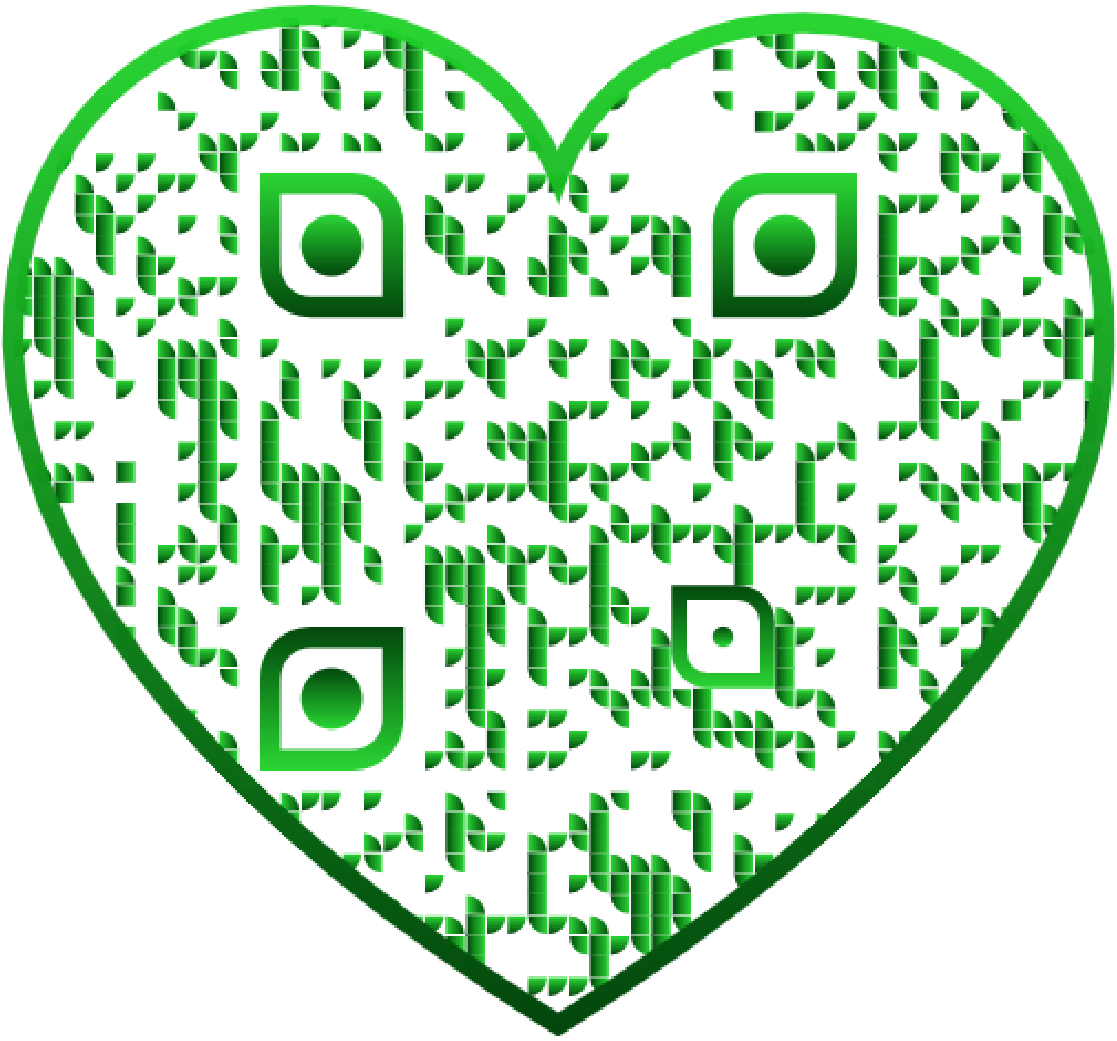
RESCUE KNIVES

They Save Lives!

FAST FLIPPER
FOLDER FEST

CARRY TO CUT

US $9.99 CAN $10.99
01
6 02648 50251 1
DISPLAY UNTIL 2/18/25

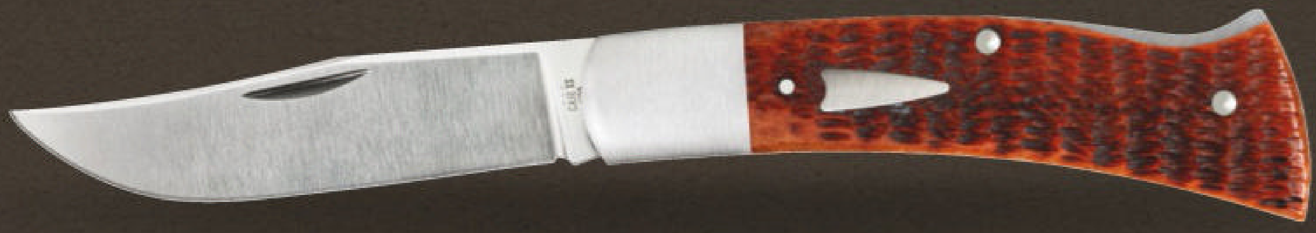


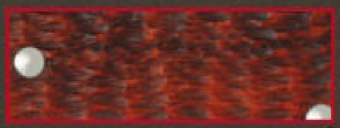
BILL RUPLE x CASE KNIVES
CUSTOM COLLAB PREMIERE!

Bill Ruple is an award-winning custom knife maker, operating out of his workshop in Pleasanton, Texas for over 30 years. Now Case® and Ruple have teamed up to produce a premiere collaboration knife inspired by one of Bill's own designs: the **Bill Ruple x Case Axe Handle™** (R.B. '2024). Together, we're raising the standards of quality and craftsmanship that can be shared between man and machine.

- Measures 4.44 inches in length (closed)
- Weighs 4.2 ounces
- Heavy gauge, wire-cut 154 stainless steel Clip blade
- Pinned on, satin finished steel Arrowhead shield
- One-piece liner/bolsters, milled for smooth blade operation
- One-piece stainless steel spring/locking mechanism
- Stainless steel pins and nickel silver rivets
- Special Case collaboration tang marking
- Soft suede leather storage pouch included

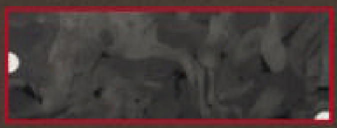
HANDLE CHOICES



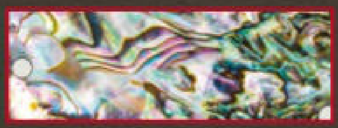


Rogers Jig Chestnut Bone
Limited to 200 Pieces

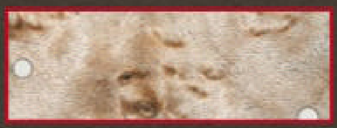
Standard Jig Antique Bone
Limited to 200 Pieces



Smooth Marbled Black Carbon Fiber
Limited to 200 Pieces



Smooth Abalone
Limited to 100 Pieces



Smooth Natural Birdseye Maple Wood
Limited to 200 Pieces

CASE, , CASE XX, XX ARE REGISTERED TRADEMARKS OF W.R. CASE & SONS CUTLERY COMPANY.

ArtisanCutlery

HIGH QUALITY PRECISION CRAFTED KNIFE

Crusoe

ATZ-1869

- Handle Material: Titanium Damascus
- Blade Material: S90V

Holm

ATZ-1875

- Titanium
- Blade Material: S90V

2025

SHOT SHOW

BOOTH: 41708

CJRB

Pyrite-Light

J1945

Acacia

J1952

Instagram: artisancutlery
Instagram: cjrbcutlery

www.artisancutlery.net
www.cjrb.net

sales@artisancutlery.net
sales@cjrb.net

RECOILTV

WWW.RECOIL.TV

DOWNLOAD THE FREE APP

RecoilTV is a **2A** friendly streaming platform created to entertain and inform you on the latest guns and gear associated with the firearms lifestyle.

AVAILABLE ON

Download on the App Store

Download on Apple TV

GET IT ON Google Play

Roku

fire tv

Chromecast

HONEST. RELEVANT. UNFILTERED.

THE PREMIER AUTHORITY FOR FIREARMS NEWS AND MEDIA THE WAY YOU WANT AND DESERVE.

PRESENTED BY

BCM® Smith&Wesson® SIGHTMARK® B5 SYSTEMS EOTECH.

INFORCE 5.11 TIMNEY TRIGGERS USA PULSAR Kimber® AERO PRECISION

JANUARY 2025
BLADE
THE WORLD'S #1 KNIFE PUBLICATION

CONTENTS

32 Will Stelter and Francesca Ritchie at BLADE Show West.

12 SOG Escape 2.0 ATK. (Marty Stanfield image)

82 Jordon Berthelot integral hunter. (image courtesy of Jordon Berthelot)

FEATURES

12 EDC TO THE RESCUE
What better carry knife than one designed to save your life?
By Dexter Ewing

14 RESCUE KNIVES IN YOUR CAR
Where you put them can make all the difference in the world.
By Dexter Ewing

20 FOLDING AND FIXED EDC
It's all about choices with the best everyday carry knives.
By *BLADE®* staff

24 COOL CARRY MODES
Bring it with a selection of approaches to everyday carry.
By Reuben Bolieu

26 ROBUST ULTICLIP
UltiClip has revolutionized the way people carry knives.
By Reuben Bolieu

32 KNIFE LANDSLIDE IN UTAH
On election eve, BLADE Show West fetes its keen constituents.
By BLADE staff

40 FAST FLIPPER FEST
Ponder three cool examples of the quickest manual one-handers.
By Pat Covert

48 COMPACT OF CUT
There is no knife chore too small for a sharp compact cutter.
By Abe Elias

56 FINN AND BEAR IT
Cold Steel Finn Bear joins the author's all-time curlicue list.
By MSG Kim Breed

60 BEST OF BLADE SHOW WEST
Custom and factory award knives are impressive in Salt Lake.
By BLADE staff

66 FANTASTIC VOYAGES
Hibben-Ehlers collaborations speak volumes without talking.
By Mike Haskew

82 LIGHTNING STRIKES TWICE
Berthelot marries two electric materials in one knife.
By BLADE staff

SPOTLIGHT

6 | SHORT CUTS
7 | COVER STORY
10 | UNSHEATHED
47 | WHERE TO GET 'EM
72 | THE KNIFE I CARRY
74 | KNIFE SHOW CALENDAR
76 | BLADE SHOPPE
78 | WHERE TO NET 'EM
79 | AD INDEX
80 | NEXT IN *BLADE®*

TOPS Knives Quick Skin. (Reuben Bolieu image)

James Rodebaugh Custom Best Hunter. (Jocelyn Frasier image)

BLADE

LEARN MORE AT LANSKY.COM

STAY SHARP

Stay sharp in the kitchen with the *NEW* all diamond **Master's Edge®** sharpener.

MEDGE1D

2 Fine Diamond Rods
2 Medium Diamond Rods
1 Triangular Diamond Rod

ALL DIAMOND

LANSKY® SHARPENERS

A.G. Russell™ KNIVES CHRISTMAS SPECIAL 2024

...e Cutting Edge®

Downloadable Version at Cuttingedge.com/pdf

...and Handmade Knives ...for Immediate Delivery
November 2024

60™ ANNIVERSARY 1964-2024

AKTI MEMBER

To receive one of our catalogs
call 800-255-9034 Dept #H0125
or visit our websites
Shop Online at agrussell.com and cuttingedge.com

A.G. Russell™ KNIVES
2900 S. 26th St. - Rogers, AR 72758

© 2025 A.G. Russell Knives

Betty Dowell 1931-2024

Elizabeth “Betty” Ann Dowell, the driving force behind BLADE Magazine Cutlery Hall-of-Fame® member Ted Dowell, teacher, mother, grandmother and friend of the knife community for over half a century, passed away July 2. She was 93.

Most fittingly, she lived long enough to watch on Zoom as Ted was inducted into the Cutlery Hall of Fame June 5 at BLADE Show 2024.

Betty and Ted were married in 1953 and moved to Madras, Oregon, in 1954, where Betty was a part-time substitute teacher and homemaker raising three children: Scott, Lynn and Jeff. The family moved to Bend, Oregon, in 1964, where Betty became an accomplished substitute teacher in the Bend Public School System. Ted, meanwhile, accepted a professorship at Central Oregon Community College, where he was dean of the mathematics department. He sold his first knife in 1967 and helped found the Knifemakers’ Guild in 1970, along with Cutlery Hall-of-Famer Bob Loveless writing the organization’s bylaws in the process. Ted also later served as Guild president.

T.M. “Ted” Dowell

Betty Dowell celebrates the induction of her husband Ted into the BLADE Magazine Cutlery Hall of Fame this past summer. (image courtesy of Jeff Dowell)

Ted went full time making knives in 1974 and started TMD Knives in 1975. That same year the Dowells suffered the tragic loss of their son Scott, 19, in a car accident. Betty took the lead role in getting her family through such a trying time, as well as maintaining the knifemaking business. As Jeff noted when he inducted his father at the Hall-of-Fame ceremony this past June, “My mom was galvanized and determined to have a family to take care of and a household to run, and she ran every bit of the business. [Dad made the knives] but everything else she did. She attended to every detail of the business. She had two kids to take care of and she had a grieving husband and a knifemaker and a business to support, and she did so for another 40 years.”

In fact, until the Dowells closed their knifemaking operation in 2010, Betty was the rock of TMD Knives, handling all of the purchasing, inventory management, accounting, correspondence, promotions, and travel logistics for the company. Her attention to detail and level of documentation of the business was as comprehensive and complete as possible.

Betty’s work accomplishments at TMD Knives and the Dowells’ ground-breaking efforts in getting the Guild established early on earned her the Guild’s coveted Nate Posner Award in 2015 for support “above and beyond” of the Guild and the custom knifemaking industry.

Contributions should be made out to: Partners in Care and mailed to: Partners in Care, attn: Development, 2075 NE Wyatt Ct., Bend, OR 97701.

For the latest knives, knife news, trends and more, visit ***blademag.com****,* BLADE®*’s popular Instagram page* ***@blade_magazine****, and on* ***Facebook*** *and* ***Twitter.***

BLADE

Betty and Ted at the 2009 Knifemakers’ Guild Show in Louisville, Kentucky, the last of their 40 consecutive Guild Show appearances as an exhibiting team. Ted passed away in 2012.

HOW TO REACH US!

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.BLADEMAG.COM TO:
- Sign up for our free newsletter.
- Renew your magazine subscription. There’s a subscription link in the nav bar.
- Comment on our site stories written by *BLADE®* staff members and others.

LOOK FOR BLADE MAGAZINE ON:

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES: Visit us on the web at www.blademag.com or call 877-485-6426.

BOOK SALES: Visit us at www.gundigeststore.com or call 920-471-4522.

BACK ISSUES FOR SALE: Subject to Availability. Call 920-471-4522.

ADVERTISING: Contact Lori McDaniel at 715-498-3768 or lori@gundigest.com, or request a media kit by writing to: BLADE, 5583 W. Waterford Ln., Suite D, Appleton, WI 54913.

LETTERS OR ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS:
Steve Shackleford, Editor
BLADE Magazine
5583 W. Waterford Ln., Suite D
Appleton, WI 54913
or email steve@blademag.com.

THE STINGRAY by Hibben & Ehler
EDC KNIFE SPECIAL ISSUE
BLADE
THE WORLD'S #1 KNIFE PUBLICATION
JANUARY 2025
SHARP AT YOUR SIDE
Blades With Multiple Sheath Options
No Job's Too Small For COMPACT CUTTERS
RESCUE KNIVES
They Save Lives!
FAST FLIPPER FOLDER FEST
CARRY TO CUT

The **TI Lookout** from **Big Idea Design** is a no-nonsense EDC fixed blade with a pocket clip sheath for carry most anywhere—pocket, vest, you name it. For more on it and other knives with versatile carry modes, see page 24.

The tactical-looking **Kershaw Drivetrain** is a rescue knife that includes a clever fold-out cutter that will sever the sturdiest of seat belts and other stuff that needs cutting in an accident. Check out it and other engaging rescue knives on page 12.

Sporting a mesmerizing handle, wire pocket clip and contrasting orange hardware, the **GiantMouse Sonoma V2 Carryology** copped **Best Factory EDC** at **BLADE Show West**. For more on it and the other custom and factory award winners in Utah, see page 60.

The inset image of the **Stingray** (page 66), a collaboration between BLADE Magazine Cutlery Hall-of-Fame® member **Gil Hibben** and designer **Paul Ehlers**, is by **Eric Eggly/PointSeven**. The images of the TI Lookout, Drivetrain and Sonoma V2 are by **Reuben Bolieu**, **Marty Stanfield** and **Jocelyn Frasier**, respectively.

*For the latest knives, knife news, trends and more, visit **blademag.com,** BLADE®'s popular Instagram page **@blade_magazine**, and on **Facebook** and **Twitter**.*

BLADE

BLUE RIDGE KNIVES, INC.
BLUE RIDGE KNIVES, INC. • DEPARTMENT BL • 314 LEE HIGHWAY • MARION, VA 24354
- KNIVES, KITCHEN CUTLERY, SWORDS & MUCH MORE
- WORLDWIDE WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTOR
- BLUE RIDGE KNIVES' EXCLUSIVES
- 2,432 PAGE COLOR CATALOG
- MONTHLY PUBLICATION
- DEALERS ONLY

OVER 800 BRANDS

SEND A COPY OF YOUR BUSINESS LICENSE OR PROOF OF BUSINESS
PHONE (276) 783-6143 • FAX (276) 783-9298
E-MAIL: ONESTOP@BLUERIDGEKNIVES.COM • WEB SITE: WWW.BLUERIDGEKNIVES.COM

NORDIC KNIVES

See our Gallery
on 8th Street,
Boise, Idaho

Featuring the finest in
Custom & Randall
knives since 1971

We buy, sell & consign
entire collections

Buy with confidence,
your satisfaction
is guaranteed

www.nordicknives.com

Chris Reeve Knives
ORDER AT CHRISREEVE.COM
SEBENZA 31 PLAIN
with CPM MagnaCut Drop Point

SAY GOODBYE TO RUST
CARRY THE SPYDERCO SALT® SERIES
SAGE™ 5 Lightweight Salt®
Featuring corrosion-resistant CPM® MagnaCut® stainless steel
Spyderco
spyderco.com 800 525 7770

BLADE®
THE WORLD'S #1 KNIFE PUBLICATION
Vol. LI, No. 4, January 2025

BladeMag.com
E-mail us: steve@blademag.com

5583 W. Waterford Ln., Suite D
Appleton, WI 54913
Phone: 920.471.4522 • Fax: 920.471.0031

CARIBOU MEDIA GROUP PUBLISHER
JIM SCHLENDER

EDITOR
STEVE SHACKLEFORD

MANAGING EDITOR
LAURA PELTAKIAN

ONLINE EDITOR
ELWOOD SHELTON

SR. ART DIRECTOR
GENE COO

ART DIRECTOR
NADIA SVERDLOVA

FIELD EDITORS
MSG KIM BREED, ABE ELIAS, DEXTER EWING, ED FOWLER, MIKE HASKEW, B.R. HUGHES, LES ROBERTSON, JOE SZILASKI, RICHARD D. WHITE

ADVERTISING SALES

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER
RYAN FARNER
760.809.8729 • ryan@recoilweb.com

SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
ALEX OSTROWSKI
920.212.5677 • alex@gundigest.com

SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
DAVID FIGG
813.418.1060 • dfigg@recoilweb.com

SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
LORI MCDANIEL
715.498.3768 • lori@gundigest.com

ADVERTISING ASSISTANT
CHING CORNFORTH

GUN DIGEST MEDIA, LLC

GM/PUBLISHER
GLEN CASTLE

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
JENNIFER SEXSTONE

NETWORK MANAGER
LUKE HARTLE

NEWSSTAND SALES
NPS MEDIA GROUP
rmurray@npsmediagroup.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS SERVICES
U.S.: 877.485.6426
E-mail: support@blademagazineservice.com
P.O. Box 182, Williamsport, PA 17703

BLADE SHOW
BLADE SHOW WEST
GunDigest

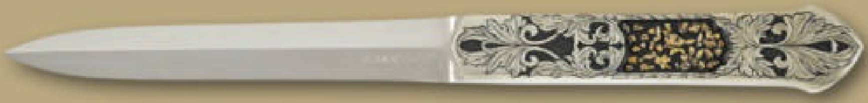
BLADE® Magazine, (ISSN 1064-5853) is published monthly by Caribou Media Group, LLC dba Gun Digest Media LLC. Corporate headquarters is 5583 W. Waterford Ln., Suite D, Appleton, WI 54913. Periodicals postage paid at Appleton, WI 54913, and at additional mailing offices. Canadian Agreement No. 40665675. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to P.O. Box 182, Williamsport, PA 17703. *BLADE®* and its logo are registered trademarks. Other names and logos referred to or displayed in editorial or advertising content may be trademarked or copyrighted. *BLADE* assumes no responsibility for unsolicited materials sent to it. Publisher and advertisers are not liable for typographical errors that may appear in prices or descriptions in advertisements. The possession, transportation and sale of certain types of knives is restricted or prohibited by federal, state and local laws. *BLADE®* and Caribou Media rely upon the fact that collectors, purveyors/dealers, exhibitors, advertisers and manufacturers are expected to know and comply with these regulations.

MORPHY
AUCTIONS

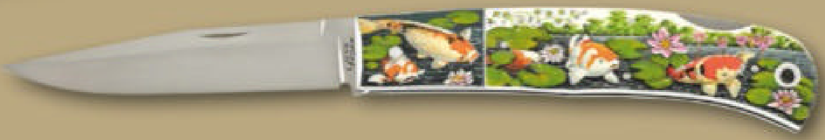
FIREARMS & MILITARIA

MAY 6, 7 & 8, 2025

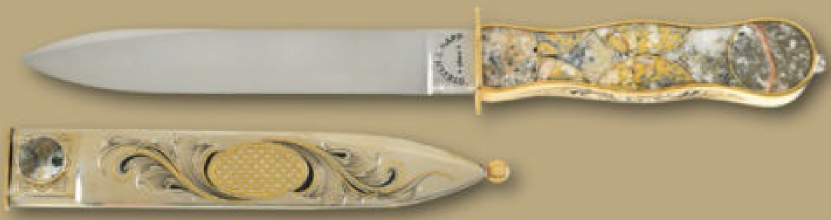
SR JOHNSON MEDIUM SIZE
PEARL AND GOLD DAGGER
EMBELLISHED BY BARRY LEE HANDS



JIM SORNBERGER CAF-229 DAGGER
WITH GOLD NUGGET INLAYS



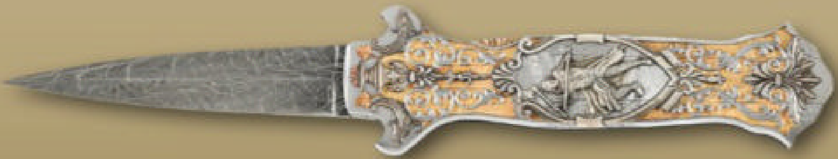
JESS HORN CUSTOM IVORY LOCKBACK KNIFE
ENGRAVED BY MARIO TERZI



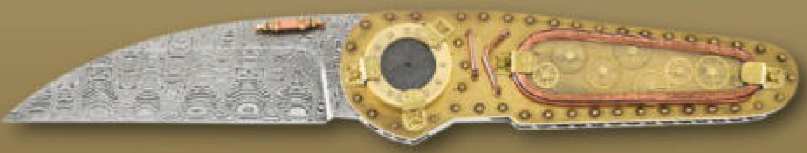
STEVEN RAPP CUSTOM GOLD QUARTZ
WILL & FINCK STYLE DAGGER

JIM SORNBERGER SMALL SAN FRANCISCO
STYLE GOLD QUARTZ INLAID DAGGER

JOE KIOUS BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG KNIFE
AUTO LOCKBACK ENGRAVED BY LEE GRIFFITHS



JOE KIOUS CUSTOM CRUSADERS DOUBLE
POCKET LOCKET AUTO LOCKBACK KNIFE



VAN BARNETT CUSTOM AKI 2013 TIME MACHINE
DAMASCUS AND COPPER LINERLOCK KNIFE

DELLANA IN THE BLACK SOLE AUTHORSHIP
CUSTOM FOLDING KNIFE

ACCEPTING CONSIGNMENTS FOR
OUR UPCOMING 2025 AUCTIONS

2000 N. READING ROAD | DENVER, PA 17517 | 877-968-8880 | INFO@MORPHYAUCTIONS.COM
MORPHYAUCTIONS.COM

BY STEVE SHACKLEFORD

The Whole World Was Cutting

Argentina's Javier Vogt (left) and Belgium's Veronique Laurent (right) represented two of the 35 countries providing exhibitors for BLADE Show '24. The knife is one of Veronique's art daggers.

Like most years, 2024 had more than its share of ups, downs and continuations of the same. From the promising developments in American-made factory knives to the harmful effects of Hurricanes Milton and Helene on knifemakers and at least one knife show, there were the goods, the bads, gains, losses, victories, debuts, swan songs and more. Among them:

•Newer and older knife companies alike, such as Montana Knife Co., Emerson Knives, Inc., Hawk Knife Design, Tactile Knife Co., White River Knife & Tool and others, lead a surge in quality American-made knives;

•Original portions of the hull, deck and other parts of *The Battleship Texas* are distributed to artisans around the country, including bladesmiths and knifemakers such as Harvey Dean, Jason Fry, J. Neilsen, Jack Stottlemire, Greg Coker and many others, to make items they specialize in and donate them to raise money to restore the pre-World War I dreadnought (https://battleshiptxartisans.com/catalog/);

•A boom in the number of international countries (35) with exhibitors at the BLADE Show, led by France (21 exhibitors), South Africa (18), Italy (14) and Brazil (13), reflect the continuing recovery from the devastating effect of the worldwide pandemic;

•Spartan Blades headlines a bevy of BLADE Magazine Knife-of-the-Year® award winners at the BLADE Show with the company's first Overall Knife of the Year, the Bill Harsey designed Clandestina, and also the Manufacturing Quality Award, the company's first ever wins in either of the two prestigious categories;

•Speaking of Harsey, he, along with Ted Dowell and Don Fogg, become the 72nd, 73rd and 74th members of the BLADE Magazine Cutlery Hall of Fame®;

•In what promises to be the first of several, Cutlery Hall-of-Famer Bill Ruple and Case debut their inaugural collaboration, the Bill Ruple X Case Axe Handle;

•CPM MagnaCut stainless continues its run as the No. 1 blade steel among factory knives;

•After almost 30 years with Spyderco, including stints in customer service and as marketing manager and coordinator of all things public relations, past BLADE Magazine Publisher's Award winner Joyce Laituri calls it a career;

•ABS master smith Kevin Cashen is named new chairman of the American Bladesmith Society, succeeding ABS master smith Steve Dunn, who passed away unexpectedly May 21;

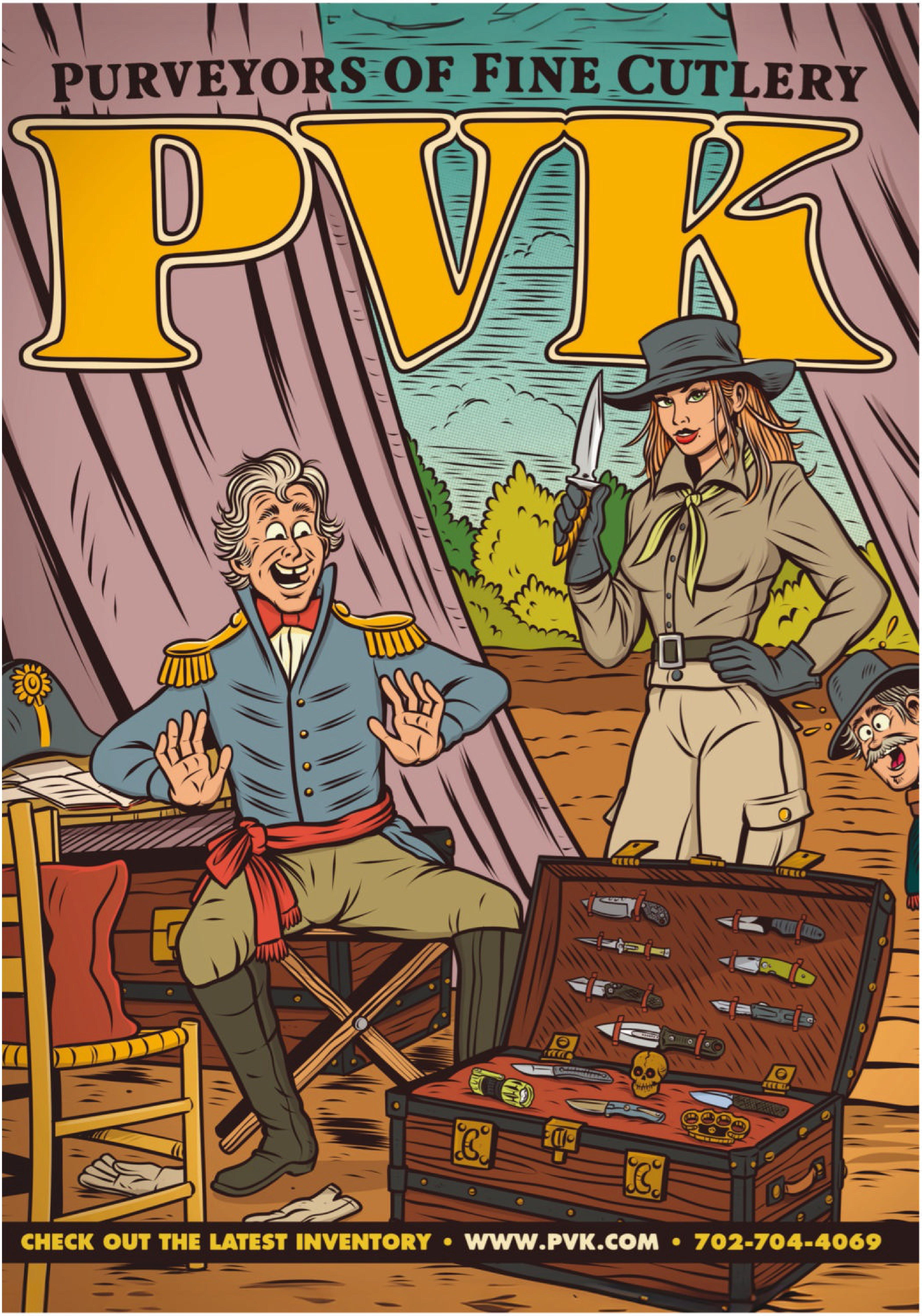
•After its original lawsuit was dismissed in June on "absurd standing grounds," Knife Rights files a new federal lawsuit in September challenging the constitutionality of portions of the Federal Switchblade Act (kniferights.org);

•Hurricanes play havoc not only with the Southeast USA but knife industry members in the affected areas, with Milton postponing the Louisiana Knife Show and Helene flooding and/or temporarily shutting down at least two North Carolina knifemaking operations, including Winkler Knives (winklerknives.com) and Dogwood Custom Knives (dogwoodcustomknives.com), and no doubt others elsewhere;

•Companies/knives celebrating anniversaries include: Boker (155th); Tru-Bal Knives, aka Tru-Balance Knife Co., (75th); Kershaw (50th); Fallkniven (40th); and the Emerson Knives, Inc. CQC-7 (25th);

•Finally, a number of friends of the knife community pass away, including: scrimshander Gary "Garbo" Williams; bladesmith/*mokume gane* guru Phillip "Phil" Baldwin; knifemaker/past National Knife Collectors Association president Bob Cargill; ABS master smiths Steve Dunn and Hanford Miller; long-time custom knife collector Walter Hoffman; veteran knifemaker Dave Ricke; Mrs. Lori Buck (wife of Cutlery Hall-of-Famer Chuck Buck); Mrs. Sallie Bos (wife of Cutlery Hall-of-Famer Paul Bos [p. 38]); Mrs. Betty Dowell (page 6, wife of Cutlery Hall-of-Famer Ted Dowell); Cutlery Hall-of-Famer B. R. Hughes; and past BLADE art director Jim Sasse. God rest their souls—and please forgive me if I've omitted anyone.

For the latest knives, knife news, trends and more, visit ***blademag.com,*** BLADE®*'s popular Instagram page* ***@blade_magazine****, and on* ***Facebook*** *and* ***Twitter****.*


PURVEYORS OF FINE CUTLERY
PVK
CHECK OUT THE LATEST INVENTORY • WWW.PVK.COM • 702-704-4069

RESCUE KNIVES

BY **DEXTER EWING** BLADE® FIELD EDITOR

>> IMAGES BY MARTY STANFIELD, MARTY STANFIELD PHOTOGRAPHY

SOG
ESCAPE ATK

What better knife to carry daily than one explicitly designed to save lives?

Why rescue knives as EDC? It's more like "why not?" Life presents situations you don't expect—an accident happens and there you are, right in the middle of it. It is therefore very important to be and stay prepared. Having a rescue knife within close reach can help when you need it most.

But who really carries a rescue knife daily? If you are a fireman, EMT or in law enforcement, it's an easy answer. Remember the be and stay prepared motto. Even if not in a save-and-serve profession, you can have a rescue knife with you for times you need it most.

It probably is no surprise that Victorinox makes a rescue knife. The company is well known for fashioning super handy pocketknives with all sorts of onboard tools that make work, play and life easier and more convenient—and in this case, safer, too.

At about 4.4 inches closed, the Victorinox Rescue Tool has a frame based on the largest knife the company makes. This is definitely not a

EDC to the RESCUE

The author uses the SOG Escape 2.0 ATK to shatter a car window, both prior to (inset) and after the fact. Inset into the handle spacer, the glass breaker quickly shattered the side glass with a concentrated *pop* to the window's lower corner.

pocketknife! It comes with a high quality sewn and riveted nylon sheath (more on it later).

As with most Swiss Army knives, the Rescue Tool sports a variety of on-board tools: a partially serrated 3⅛-inch main blade with hole opener; bottle opener; flathead and Phillips screwdrivers; a combination can opener and small flathead screwdriver; a 3.25-inch semi-curved, fully serrated blade for cutting seatbelts; a specially designed 3.25-inch pull saw for cutting shatterproof glass; and a glass breaker. The latter two are removable. The polyamide scales come in high-visibility yellow for easy location in low light conditions, and the scales glow in the dark after being charged up by sunlight or artificial light. Fit and finish on the Rescue Tool is standard for Victorinox—perfect out of the box. The blades and tools are finished nicely in a full polish except for the saw blade, which is satin finished. Opening and closing action is smooth. The main partially serrated blade locks open via a linerlock as well.

The seatbelt cutter is extremely ef-

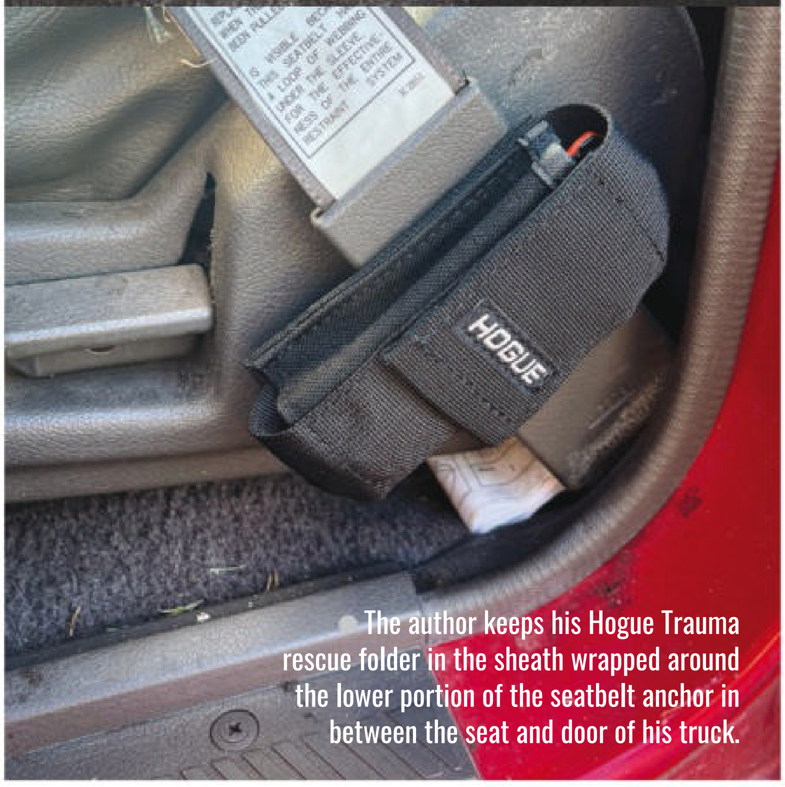
BEST PLACES FOR YOUR CAR RESCUE KNIFE

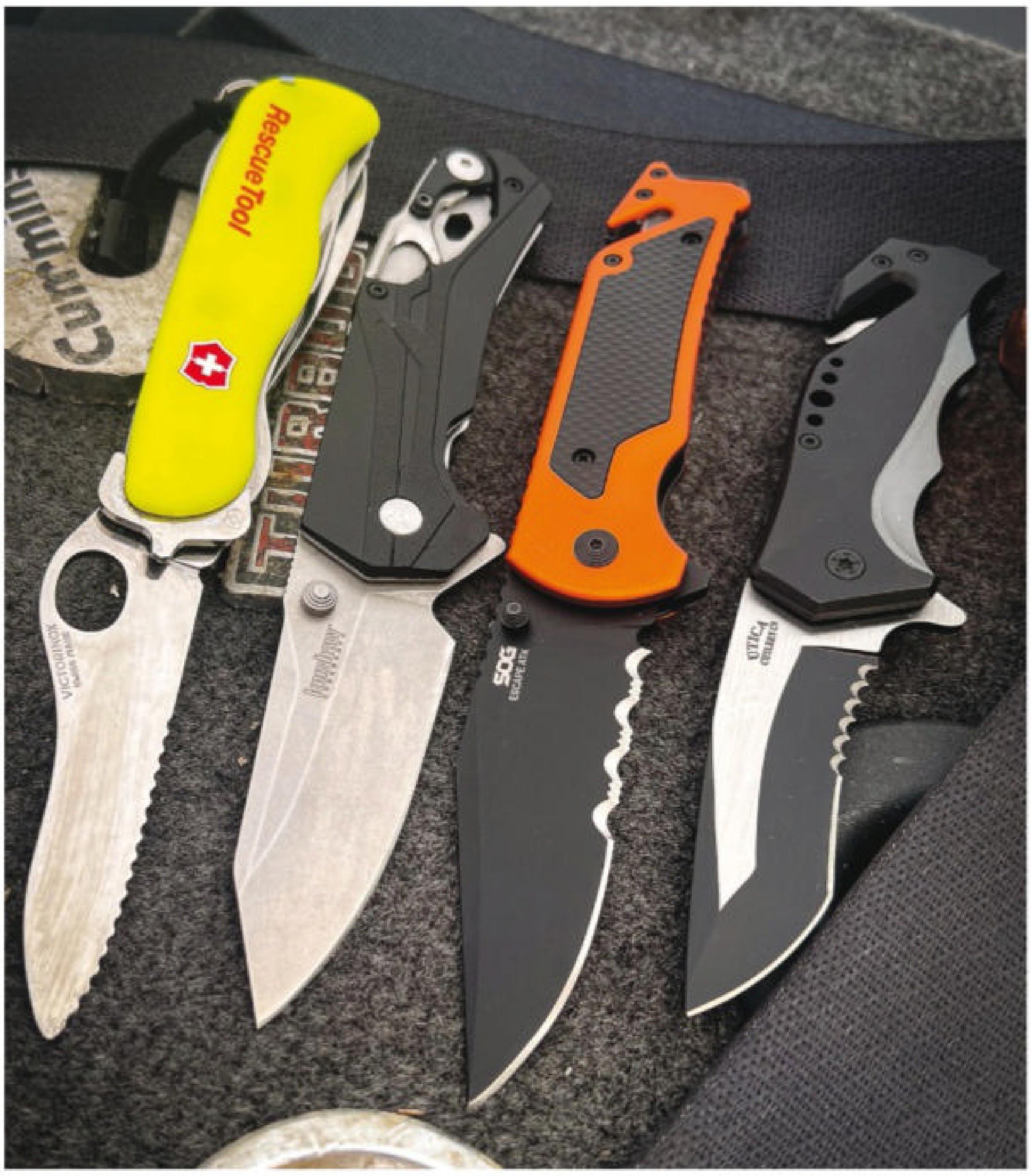
Keeping a rescue knife in your vehicle is a great idea as it can help free you and others should you have an accident or happen upon one. However, give careful thought to where you stow the knife.

Most assume a glovebox is a safe place and while not a wrong choice, it is a poor one. Why? For one, in an accident your seatbelt may not release because of the tension; in essence, you're strapped to the driver's seat and cannot lean over to access the glovebox. Worse, the vehicle could be upside down or on its side. In other words, have the knife placed securely within arm's length.

I keep a Benchmade Auto Triage inside the sunglass holder in the roof of my car, just above the inside rearview mirror. It is secured shut with a latch so it won't pop open on impact. I can easily reach it and remove it from the holder with my right hand. In my truck I keep a Hogue Trauma rescue folder in the sheath wrapped around the lower portion of the seatbelt anchor in between the seat and the door. It's just enough room for me to access the knife with the door shut, and the knife is secured in that position and won't move.

The worst place to keep the knife is in the center console cupholder. While it's convenient to access, if you get rear ended or t-boned, the knife will go airborne and land way out of reach. Some vehicles may have a center console storage/armrest in the middle. Yeah, mine in each vehicle is a clutter catchall for receipts and other junk, but it's another ideal location because the armrest lid latches shut and is within arm's reach.—*by Dexter Ewing*


The author keeps his Hogue Trauma rescue folder in the sheath wrapped around the lower portion of the seatbelt anchor in between the seat and door of his truck.


EDC rescue knives, from left: Victorinox Rescue Tool, Kershaw Drivetrain, SOG Escape ATK 2.0 and Utica Cutlery Honor Rescue Blade.

fective. The rounded, dull blade tip extends slightly beyond the handle butt so you can deploy the blade with or without gloves. Work the blade under the seatbelt and, with one swift motion, pull and the blade slices clean through. The serration pattern is similar to one you might see on a steak knife, with evenly spaced teeth—simple yet very effective and extremely sharp out of the box.

The partially serrated main blade is easy to deploy via the hole opener. The blade is unlike most if not all other partially serrated non-Victorinox patterns. The front 70 percent of the edge is serrated and the balance closest to the tang is plain for finer cutting. The serrations are more rounded at the tips than on the seatbelt cutter, presumably to allow the blade to cut evenly like a plain edge. I tested it on food, cardboard and manila rope, and it cut smoothly and aggressively.

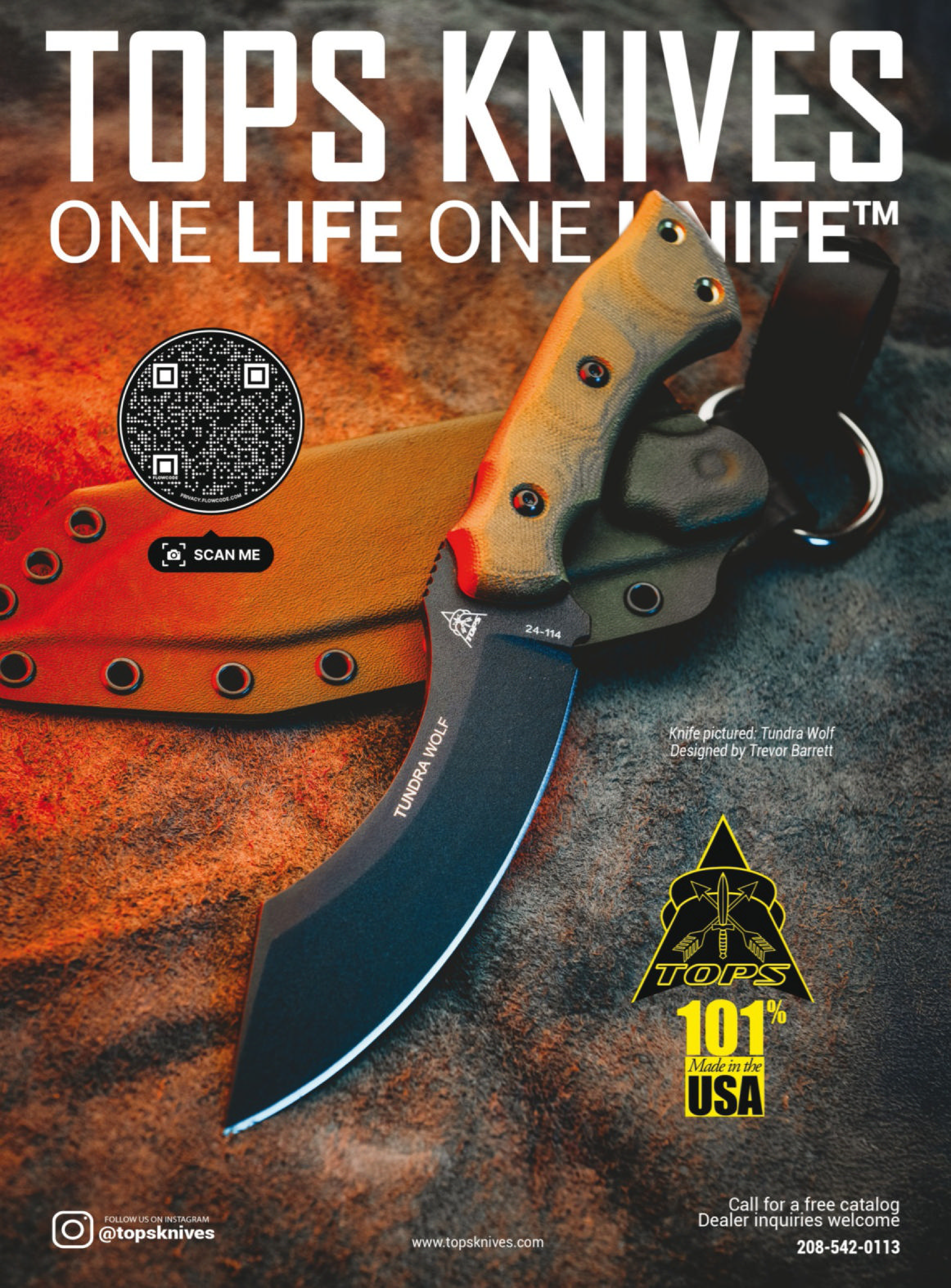
Now for the disappointing part—the glass breaker. It was not effective at all. I could not get a side car window to shatter no matter how hard I hit it. I presume the failure is due to the breaker point being too big. In my experience, the most effective glass breakers are the ones that come to a point and are made of carbide, as with the balance of the review knives. The glass saw is effective, though it grabs a bit too much on the pull stroke. However, when I adjusted the pressure it worked. Country of origin: Switzerland. MSRP: $115.

CUTS-n-BREAKS

The SOG Escape 2.0 ATK is the updated version of the original SOG Escape, a multipurpose rescue folder targeted at the serve and save pros. It features a 3.4-inch blade of AUS-8 stainless steel PVD coated black, a partially serrated edge, anodized aluminum handle, integrated/re-

TOPS KNIVES

ONE **LIFE** ONE **KNIFE**™


FLOWCODE
PRIVACY.FLOWCODE.COM
SCAN ME
24-114
TUNDRA WOLF
TOPS
101%
Made in the
USA

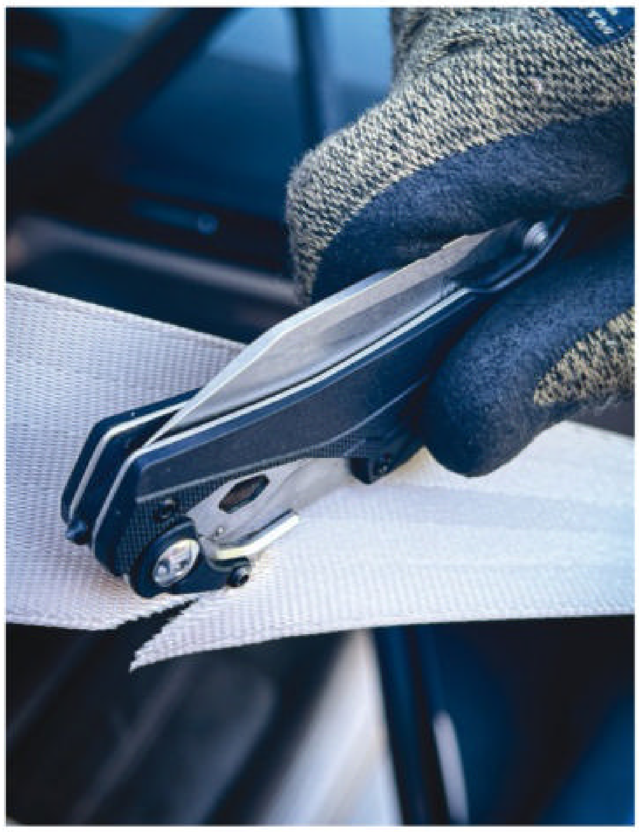
Knife pictured: Tundra Wolf
Designed by Trevor Barrett

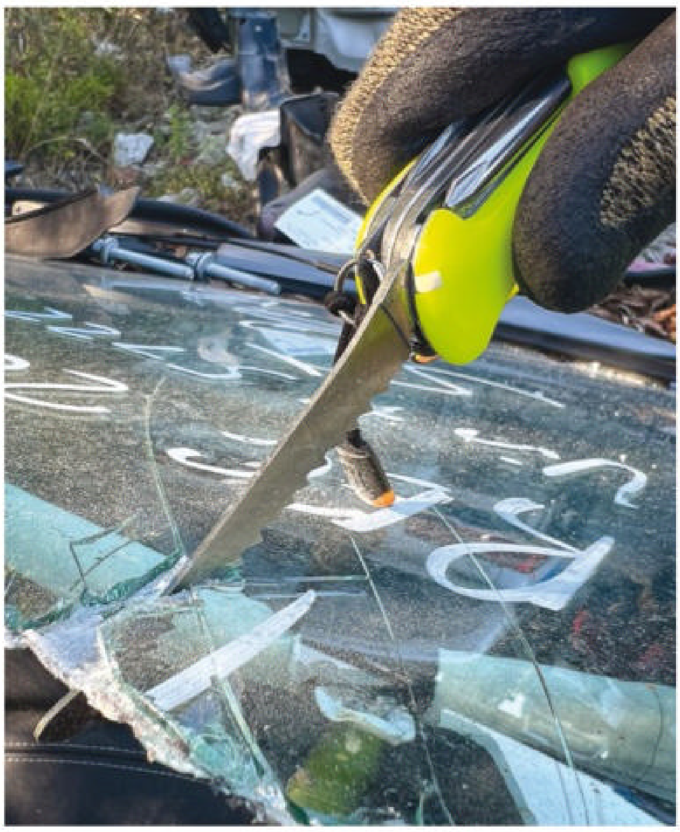
FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM
@topsknives

www.topsknives.com

Call for a free catalog
Dealer inquiries welcome

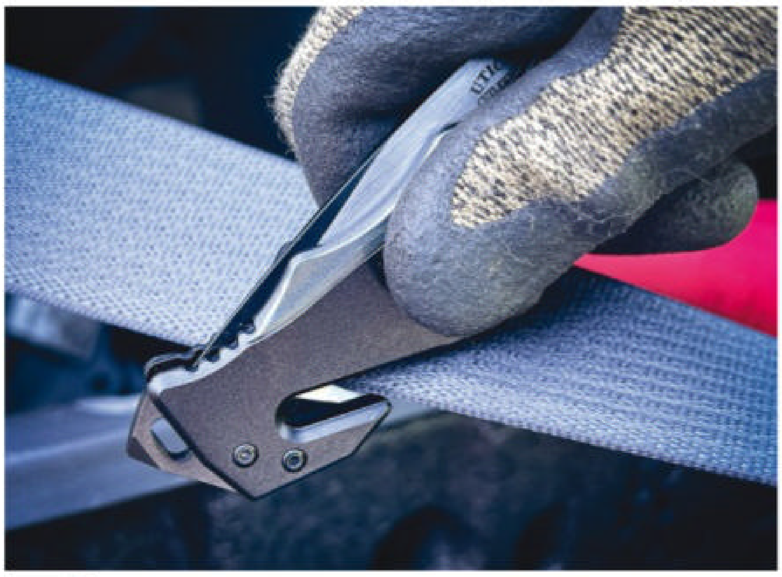
208-542-0113





The author indicated the fold-out locking seatbelt cutter of the Kershaw Drivetrain is the best of the test bunch. It's a wide hook with a blunt tip leading edge for safety. Rest the handle spine on the seatbelt and pull. The handle guides the cutter to the belt and it cleaves very easily.

The Victorinox Rescue Tool comes with a special saw that will cut through laminated vehicle glass such as the kind used for windshields. The author said the saw grabbed on the pull stroke. "The saw possibly would have better results if the windshield were shattered first," he noted, "but I couldn't locate any shattered windshields on any of the test vehicles."



A seatbelt cutter slot in the handle butt of the Utica Honor Rescue has two sharpened blades held in the scissor position to cleave seatbelts with a firm pull.

"A SPARE SEATBELT/LINE CUTTER BLADE STOWS SAFELY BENEATH THE TEXTURED PANEL HANDLE INLAY."

placeable seatbelt/line cutter, and glass breaker. The blade sports ambidextrous thumb studs and a flipper for one-hand opening. The edge is serrated to tackle a plethora of cutting chores. The clip point shape is adaptable to a wide range of tasks and the defined point is great for scoring. The serrations provide extra slicing power when the going gets tough.

The handle is cast aluminum with stainless steel liners. It comes in two colors: high visibility orange and OD green. The integrated slot at the butt houses a blade for cutting seatbelts, line and string without opening the knife. A glass breaker in the handle spacer quickly shatters side car windows. The breaker works very well. It quickly shattered the side glass with a concentrated *pop* to the lower corner of the window. The pocket clip is a fold-over, deep carry model. A spare seatbelt/line cutter blade stows safely beneath the textured panel handle inlay. Back out the two small Phillips screws securing the cover and you will see the blade underneath—it is simple to swap out. Country of origin: China. MSRP: $54.95.

LOOKS ARE DECEIVING

Kershaw's Drivetrain rescue knife looks like any standard EDC linerlock folder. It has a stylish handle coupled with a very utility friendly blade—but that's where the similarity ends. The presentation side of the handle butt boasts an integrated seatbelt cutter that folds out. A glass breaker is inserted into the end of the handle spacer. The 3.2-inch clip point blade has ambidextrous thumb studs and a flipper for one-hand opening enhanced by the company's SpeedSafe assist mechanism. The blade is D2 tool steel for augmented edge holding and wear resistance, especially for the price point. The stonewash finish is attractive and hides scratches.

The handle is molded glass reinforced nylon with double stainless steel liners. The scales are textured and contoured for a nonslip, comfortable grip with no hot spots. The seatbelt cutter easily deploys with one hand and a separate linerlock holds it in place. When closed, the

SOG
ESCAPE ATK

The SOG's serrations provide extra slicing power when the going gets tough.

BLADEGALLERY.COM

The Online Source for Fine Custom Knives

BladeGallery.com

BG

Fine Knives

Sole worldwide distributor for Thorburn knives

North American distributor for Takefu SG2 Laminated Steel

L51 Flipper with SG2 Super-Steel by André Thorburn

BC BLADE CONNECTION

BLADECONNECTION.COM

Practical & Tactical ~ The Best of Every Day Carry

Native by Winkler Knives

Chef's Knife by Bill Burke, M.S.

The Epicurean Edge

The Knife that Makes the Meal ~ Cutlery for the Discerning Chef

EPICEDGE.COM

“THE MOST EFFECTIVE GLASS BREAKERS ARE THE ONES THAT COME TO A POINT AND ARE MADE OF CARBIDE.”

cutter is concealed within the lines of the handle profile and doesn’t get in the way. A steel pocket clip carries the closed knife blade tip up.

The blade is very utility friendly, from opening boxes and mail to cutting cardboard and plastic sheeting. Once locked open, it is extremely secure with no play.

The seatbelt cutter works well. The hook tip is dull and rounded so you can work it under the seatbelt without inadvertently cutting yourself or the accident victim. The blade is ground on both sides to enhance sharpness. For best results, make your pull cut at an angle in relation to the seatbelt. Also, resting the handle spine on the seatbelt is a great way to “aim” the cutter. It bites in better that way and, when you feel it engage, give the handle a quick tug and it cleaves through effortlessly. It is a surprisingly effective seatbelt cutter! The glass breaker works very well, too. Country of origin: U.S. design, prototype and quality control, Chinese manufacture. MSRP: $69.59.

BUDGET BOSS

Utica’s Honor Rescue Knife is the least expensive of the test group. It packs a few features normally found on rescue knives, such as the integrated seatbelt cutter, glass breaker and a partially serrated, modified tanto blade. The 3-inch stainless steel blade’s partial serrations help rip through thicker materials. A two-tone finish adds character, with the bevels and spine black oxide coated and the flats satin finished. A flipper tab provides ambidextrous opening, and the blade rides effortlessly on bearings for ultra smooth action. The handle is aluminum with double stainless steel liners providing the backbone. A linerlock holds the blade open securely. A seatbelt cutter slot in the handle butt has two sharpened blades held in the scissor position to cleave seatbelts with a firm pull. The steel back spacer has an extended portion that tapers to a point, which serves as the glass breaker.

Like with the Victorinox Rescue Tool, the glass breaker on the Utica test model was ineffective. The point rounded off due to multiple hits to a side window and did not shatter it. The breaker needs a carbide point. A deep carry clip positions the closed knife blade tip down. Cost and feature wise, the Honor Rescue Knife is a great option without breaking the bank. Country of origin: China. MSRP: $32.97.

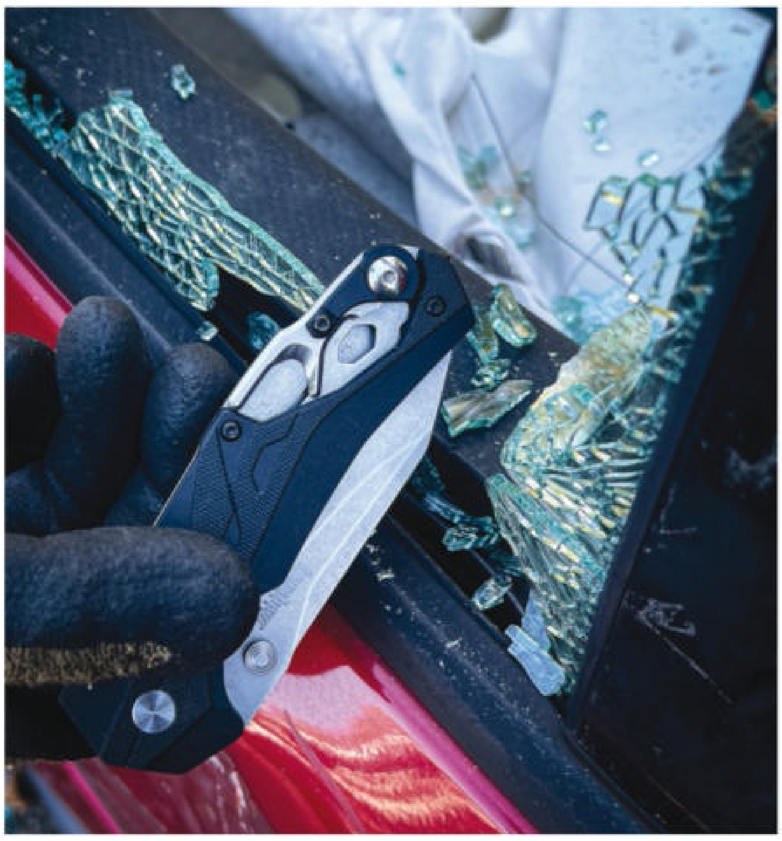
EXCLUSIVELY RESCUE

A final thought: Some prefer having a rescue knife for emergencies only as opposed to having one for both work and emergencies. You can get away with a relatively inexpensive rescue knife if you preserve it for emergency use exclusively. (Some high-end rescue knives cost as much as regular tactical folders, that is, several hundred dollars.) There’s nothing wrong with an inexpensive rescue knife as long as the manufacturing quality is there, the blade lock holds and the blade is sharp. If you are adept at doing so, sharpen the blade first before stowing it away; this way you know the blade is very sharp. And since you won’t be using it as an EDC, the sharp edge will be preserved. This works well if you have multiple vehicles in your family that you wish to outfit with rescue knives (see sidebar, page 14).

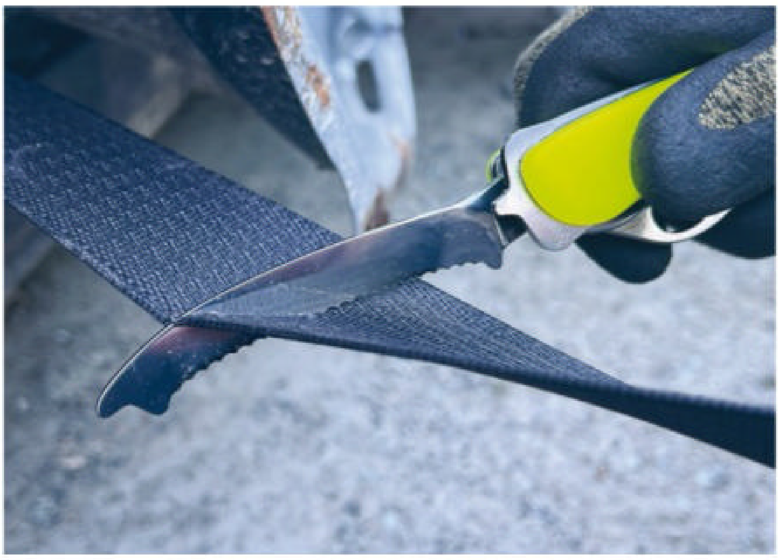
For the contact information for the knives in the story, see “Where To Get ’Em” on page 47.

For the latest knives, knife news, trends and more, visit ***blademag.com,*** BLADE®’s *popular Instagram page* ***@blade_magazine****, and on* ***Facebook*** *and* ***Twitter****.*

BLADE



The Kershaw glass breaker works very well. Situated at the end of the handle, a quick strike with it to the lower corner of the vehicle side window did the job.



The fully serrated blunt tipped seatbelt cutter blade of the Victorinox works exceptionally well. It has plenty of aggressive bite to cleave through seatbelts in a hurry.

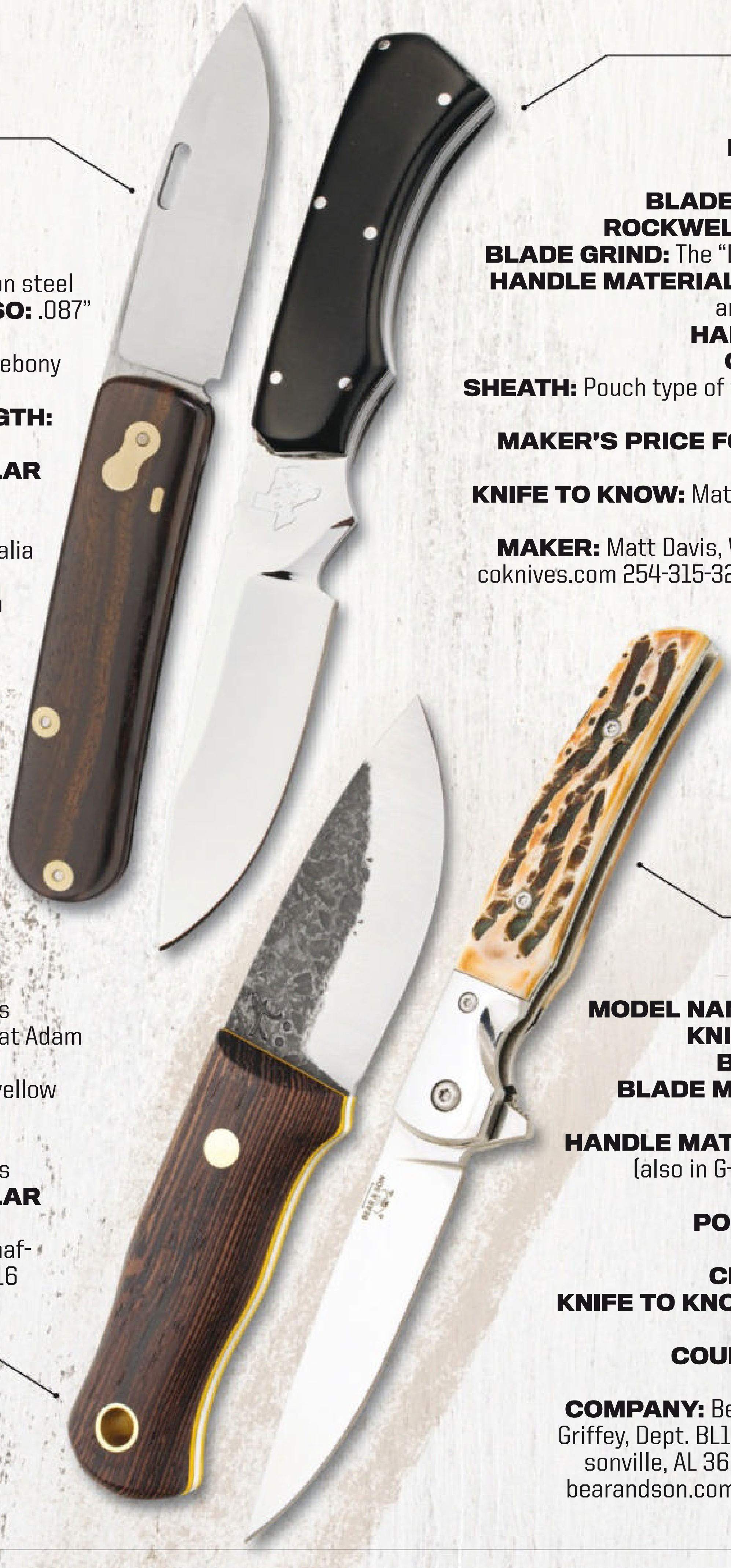
UTICA
CUTLERY CO

The Utica tanto blade’s partial serrations help rip through thicker materials.

AUTOMATIC KNIVES
MURICA'S ONE STOP AUTO SHOP
USA
M390
DAYTONA D/E
ALWAYS FREE SHIPPING!
SCAN CODE FOR AUTOMATIC KNIVES
AUTOMATIC KNIVES
AUTOMATICKNIVES.COM

Folding and Fixed EDC

It's all about choices with examples of the hottest everyday carry knives



>> SPEC CHART

MODEL: Button lock folder
BLADE LENGTH: 2.8"
BLADE MATERIAL: 52100 carbon steel
BLADE THICKNESS @RICASSO: .087"
BLADE GRIND: Flat
HANDLE MATERIAL: Macassar ebony w/brass inserts
APPROXIMATE CLOSED LENGTH: 4.2"
MAKER'S PRICE FOR A SIMILAR KNIFE: Contact maker for pricing
MAKER: Leigh Aitken, Dept. BL1, 4 Joyce St., Springvale, VIC 3171 Australia 0439 038 307 Leigh@cnccreations.com.au, twigandbot.com.au (Jocelyn Frasier image)

SPEC CHART <<

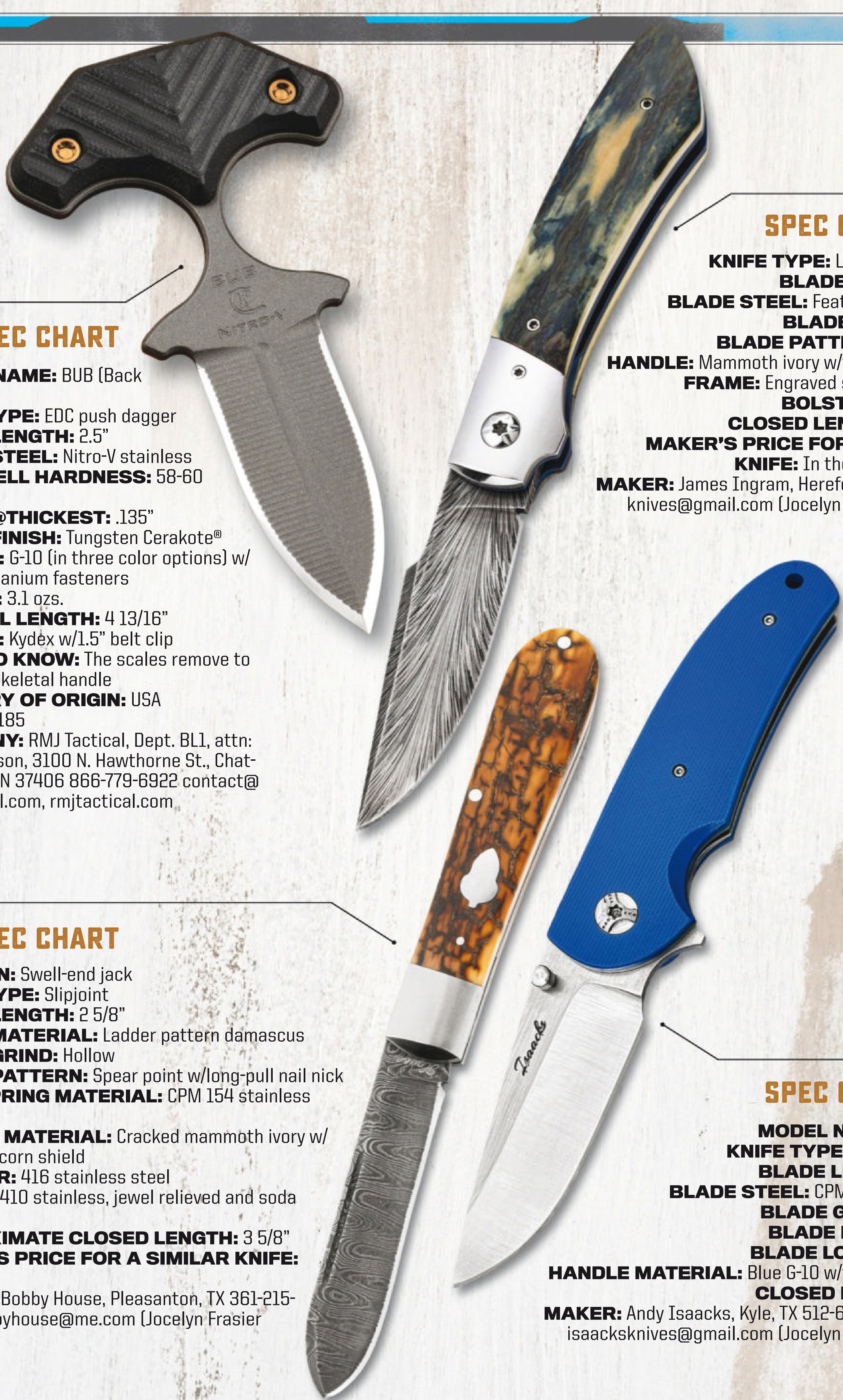
MODEL: EDC fixed blade
BLADE LENGTH: 3"
BLADE STEEL: 440C stainless
ROCKWELL HARDNESS: 59 HRC
BLADE GRIND: The "Davis Grind" by the maker
HANDLE MATERIAL: Black Micarta® w/black and white Micarta spacers
HANDLE PINS: 1/16" 440C
OVERALL LENGTH: 7"
SHEATH: Pouch type of tooled leather and rattlesnake inlay
MAKER'S PRICE FOR A SIMILAR KNIFE AND SHEATH: $400
KNIFE TO KNOW: Matt Davis is an ABS journeyman smith
MAKER: Matt Davis, Waco, TX, matt@daviswacoknives.com 254-315-3287 daviswacoknives.com (Jocelyn Frasier image)

>> SPEC CHART

MODEL: Micro Bushcrafter
BLADE LENGTH: 2.5"
BLADE STEEL: CPM 154 stainless
BLADE GRIND: Convex saber, what Adam Gray calls sabervex
HANDLE MATERIAL: Wenge w/yellow G-10 liners
OVERALL LENGTH: 5.5"
SHEATH: By Badgerclaw Outfitters
MAKER'S PRICE FOR A SIMILAR KNIFE AND SHEATH: $305
MAKER: Adam Gray, Trendon, OH, aaforgeknives@gmail.com 513-668-8716 aaforge.com (Jocelyn Frasier image)

SPEC CHART <<

MODEL NAME: D2 Rancher Sideliner
KNIFE TYPE: Flipper folder
BLADE LENGTH: 3 3/8"
BLADE MATERIAL: D2 tool steel
BLADE GRIND: Flat
HANDLE MATERIAL: India Stag Bone (also in G-10, cocobolo or titanium)
LOCK: Linerlock
POCKET CLIP: Deep carry
WEIGHT: 3 ozs.
CLOSED LENGTH: 4.25"
KNIFE TO KNOW: Torx screw construction
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: USA
MSRP: $95.99-$125.49
COMPANY: Bear & Son Cutlery, attn: M. Griffey, Dept. BL1, 1111 Bear Blvd. SW, Jacksonville, AL 36265 800-844-3034 info@bearandson.com, bearandsoncutlery.com



>> SPEC CHART

MODEL NAME: BUB (Back Up Blade)
KNIFE TYPE: EDC push dagger
BLADE LENGTH: 2.5"
BLADE STEEL: Nitro-V stainless
ROCKWELL HARDNESS: 58-60 HRC
BLADE @THICKEST: .135"
BLADE FINISH: Tungsten Cerakote®
HANDLE: G-10 (in three color options) w/ Grade 5 titanium fasteners
WEIGHT: 3.1 ozs.
OVERALL LENGTH: 4 13/16"
SHEATH: Kydex w/1.5" belt clip
KNIFE TO KNOW: The scales remove to expose a skeletal handle
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: USA
MSRP: $185
COMPANY: RMJ Tactical, Dept. BL1, attn: Ryan Johnson, 3100 N. Hawthorne St., Chattanooga, TN 37406 866-779-6922 contact@rmjtactical.com, rmjtactical.com

SPEC CHART <<

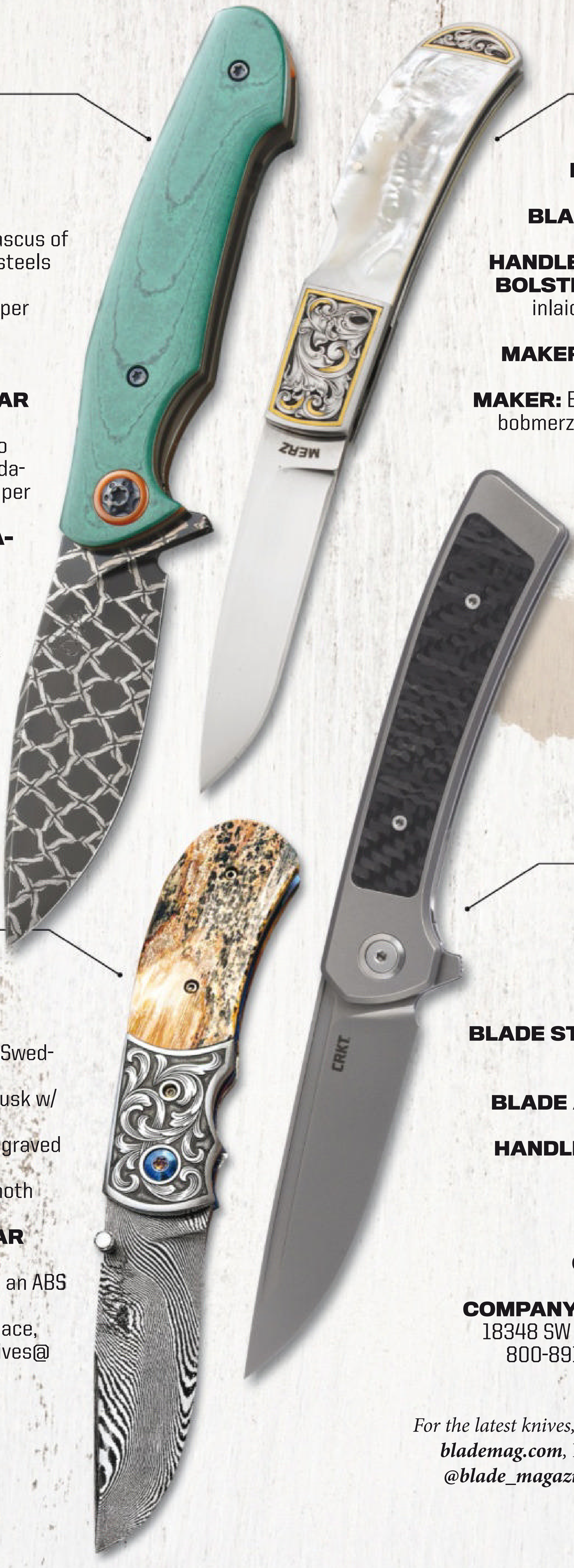
KNIFE TYPE: Linerlock folder
BLADE LENGTH: 3"
BLADE STEEL: Feather damascus
BLADE GRIND: Flat
BLADE PATTERN: Harpoon
HANDLE: Mammoth ivory w/titanium liners
FRAME: Engraved stainless steel
BOLSTER: Stainless
CLOSED LENGTH: 4 5/16"
MAKER'S PRICE FOR A SIMILAR KNIFE: In the $1,500 range
MAKER: James Ingram, Hereford, AZ ingramknives@gmail.com (Jocelyn Frasier image)

>> SPEC CHART

PATTERN: Swell-end jack
KNIFE TYPE: Slipjoint
BLADE LENGTH: 2 5/8"
BLADE MATERIAL: Ladder pattern damascus
BLADE GRIND: Hollow
BLADE PATTERN: Spear point w/long-pull nail nick
BACKSPRING MATERIAL: CPM 154 stainless steel
HANDLE MATERIAL: Cracked mammoth ivory w/ polished acorn shield
BOLSTER: 416 stainless steel
LINERS: 410 stainless, jewel relieved and soda blasted
APPROXIMATE CLOSED LENGTH: 3 5/8"
MAKER'S PRICE FOR A SIMILAR KNIFE: $1,650
MAKER: Bobby House, Pleasanton, TX 361-215-3663 bobbyhouse@me.com (Jocelyn Frasier image)

SPEC CHART <<

MODEL NAME: Exodus
KNIFE TYPE: Flipper folder
BLADE LENGTH: 2.75"
BLADE STEEL: CPM 154 stainless
BLADE GRIND: Hollow
BLADE FINISH: Satin
BLADE LOCK: Linerlock
HANDLE MATERIAL: Blue G-10 w/titanium liners
CLOSED LENGTH: 4.1"
MAKER: Andy Isaacks, Kyle, TX 512-698-8501 andyisaacksknives@gmail.com (Jocelyn Frasier image)



>> SPEC CHART

KNIFE NAME: Bromen
KNIFE TYPE: Flipper folder
BLADE LENGTH: 3.13"
BLADE MATERIAL: Mosaic damascus of 1080 carbon and 15N20 nickel-alloy steels
BLADE GRIND: Flat
HANDLE MATERIAL: Emerald paper Micarta®
POCKET CLIP: Yes
CLOSED LENGTH: 4.39"
MAKER'S PRICE FOR A SIMILAR KNIFE: $3,500
KNIFE TO KNOW: The knife is also available in a more subdued mosaic damascus blade and a butterscotch paper Micarta® handle by Lucas Gumbiner
MAKER'S CONTACT INFORMATION: Will Stelter/Lucas Gumbiner, Dept. BL1, 425 Clearwater Tl., Manhattan, MT 59741 425-516-8731 willstelterbladesmith.com, will@willstelterbladesmith.com (SharpByCoop image)

SPEC CHART <<

KNIFE TYPE: Lockback folder
BLADE LENGTH: 2.5"
BLADE STEEL: CPM 154 stainless
BLADE GRIND: Flat
HANDLE MATERIAL: Mother-of-pearl
BOLSTERS: 416 stainless w/24k-gold-inlaid scroll engraving by Wes Griffin
CLOSED LENGTH: 3.5"
MAKER'S PRICE FOR A SIMILAR KNIFE: $2,300
MAKER: Bob Merz, Katy, TX 281-770-8868 bobmerzknives.com, bobmerz43@gmail.com (Jocelyn Fraiser image)

>> SPEC CHART

KNIFE TYPE: Folder
BLADE LENGTH: 2.75"
BLADE MATERIAL: Damascus of Swedish and German stainless steels
HANDLE MATERIAL: Mammoth tusk w/ anodized and jeweled titanium liners
BOLSTER: Stainless steel scroll engraved by Tyler Poor
THUMBSTUD: Damascus w/mammoth inlay
MAKER'S PRICE FOR A SIMILAR KNIFE: Contact maker for pricing
KNIFE TO KNOW: Brian Milinski is an ABS apprentice smith
MAKER: Brian Milinski, Meadows Place, TX 713-724-1993 mrknives.com, mrknives@yahoo.com (Jocelyn Frasier image)

SPEC CHART <<

KNIFE NAME: Q
KNIFE TYPE: Flipper folder
DESIGNER: Richard Rogers
BLADE LENGTH: 3.31"
BLADE STEEL: CPM MagnaCut stainless
BLADE @THICKEST: .13"
BLADE FINISH: Bead blast
BLADE ACTION: Ikoma Korth Bearing System (IKBS)
HANDLE: Titanium w/carbon fiber inlay
LOCK: Framelock
POCKET CLIP: Yes
WEIGHT: 3.2 ozs.
CLOSED LENGTH: 4.58"
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Italy
MSRP: $225
COMPANY: CRKT, attn: D. Flagg, Dept. BL1, 18348 SW 126th Place, Tualatin, OR 97062 800-891-3100 info@crkt.com, crkt.com

For the latest knives, knife news, trends, and more, visit ***blademag.com****, BLADE®'s popular* ***Instagram*** *page* ***@blade_magazine****, and on* ***Facebook*** *and* ***Twitter****.*

BLADE

CARBON FIBER AND G10 LAYERED

CAT#	COLOR	SIZE	PRICE
UXC438	Blue	1/8" x 1-1/2" x 10" Scale	$17.95
UXC433	Blue	3/16" x 1-1/2" x 10" Scale	$31.95
UXC9138	Red	1/8" x 1-1/2" x 10" Scale	$17.95
UXC9136	Red	3/16" x 1-1/2" x 10" Scale	$31.95
UXC038	Yellow	1/8" x 1-1/2" x 10" Scale	$17.95
UXC036	Yellow	3/16" x 1-1/2" x 10" Scale	$31.95
UXC338	Orange	1/8" x 1-1/2" x 10" Scale	$17.95
UXC336	Orange	3/16" x 1-1/2" x 10" Scale	$31.95
UXC418	Blue	1/8" x 5" x 10" Slab	$51.95
UXC416	Blue	3/16" x 5" x 10" Slab	$91.95
UXC9118	Red	1/8" x 5" x 10" Slab	$51.95
UXC9116	Red	3/16" x 5" x 10" Slab	$91.95
UXC018	Yellow	1/8" x 5" x 10" Slab	$51.95
UXC016	Yellow	3/16" x 5" x 10" Slab	$91.95
UXC318	Orange	1/8" x 5" x 10" Slab	$51.95
UXC316	Orange	3/16" x 5" x 10" Slab	$91.95

JANTZ FILLETS

MADE IN USA

Trout Fillet

Overall length 9", Blade Length 4-1/2", Blade Width 1/2", Thickness 5/64". Handle Holes 1/8". Shown above with Orange Ultrex G10 & 1/8" MP825 Spaniel mosaic pin.

Straight Fillet

Overall length 11-1/2", Blade Length 6-1/4", Blade Width 3/4", Thickness 5/64". Handle Holes 1/4". Shown above with Red Ultrex G10 & 1/4" MP475 Starfish mosaic pin.

Curved Fillet

Overall length 11", Blade Length 6", Blade Width 1", Thickness 5/64". Handle Holes 1/4". Shown above with Black Ultrex G10 & 1/4" MP495 Ring of Fire mosaic pin.

CAT.#	DESC	STEEL	PRICE
J1703	Trout Fillet	14C28N	26.95
J1705	Straight Fillet	14C28N	29.95
J1706	Curved Fillet	14C28N	29.95

JANTZ
knifemaking.com

METAL POWDERS

325 mesh metal powders of 1084, 1095 or 1080 with a 2% pure nickel or 4% pure nickel mix for making canister damascus.

Larger sizes also available.

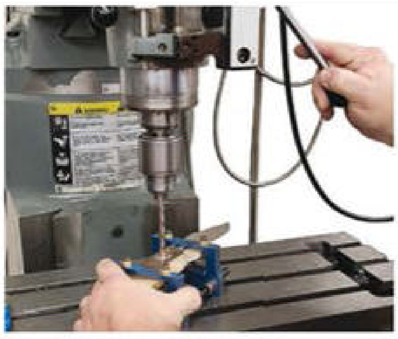
CAT#	METAL	SIZE	PRICE
PS845	1084	5 lbs	$38.95
PS955	1095	5 lbs	$38.95
PS802	1080 w/2% Ni	5 lbs	$41.95
PS804	1080 w/4% Ni	5 lbs	$45.95

KNIFEMAKING STARTS AT

JANTZ

800-351-8900 knifemaking.com

JANTZ PDJ KNIFE VISE



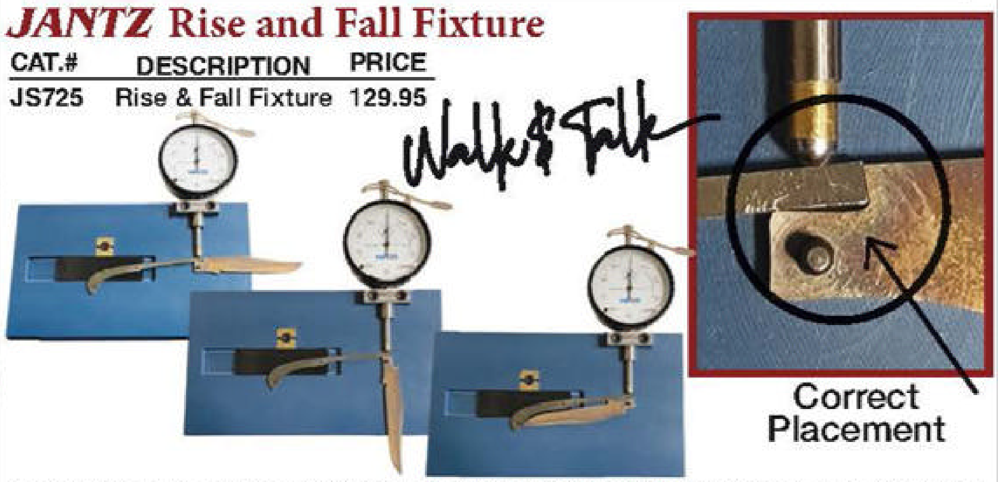
Instructional Video

CAT.#	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
JS750	Jantz PDJ Knife Vise	$79.95

Drill perfect holes every time with the *JANTZ* Perpendicular Drill Jig (PDJ) Knife Vise. Allows tang or liner to be face up and perpendicular with drill press. Especially useful when drilling textured, uneven handle material. Can also be used to clamp handle to knife while gluing. Made in USA.

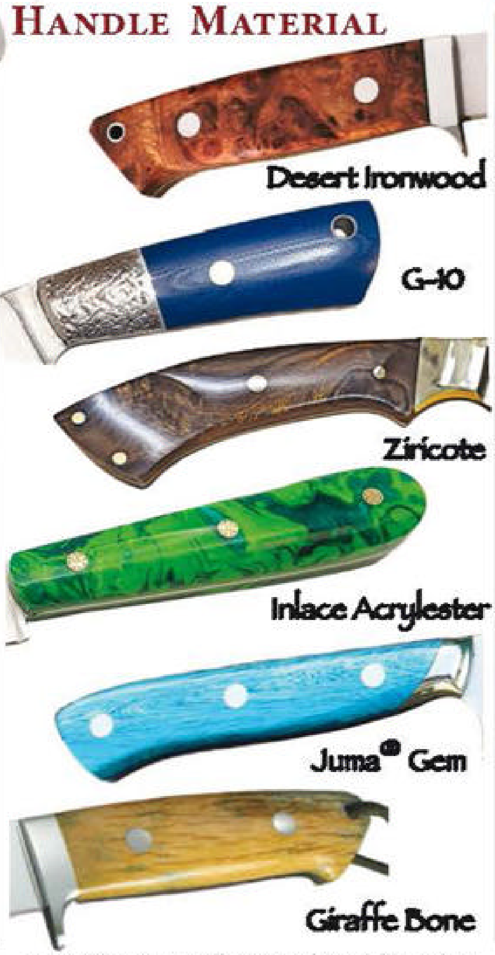
JANTZ Rise and Fall Fixture

CAT.#	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
JS725	Rise & Fall Fixture	129.95



A great starter fixture for fitting slip joint knives with confidence and precision. Set all 3 planes consistently for only minor adjustments under load. Duplicate the same design over and over with ease. Upgrade to the Kennedy Slip Joint fixture for advanced slip joint knives. Learn more online at knifemaking.com. Made in USA.

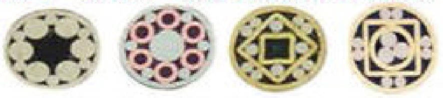
HANDLE MATERIAL



SO Much More Handle Material Available Online

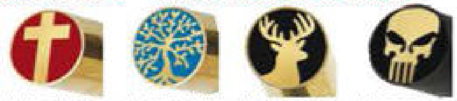
TNT Wood with Resin
Meteorite Mosaic Pin

1/4" x 12" MOSAIC PINS



CAT.#	DESCRIPTION	SALE PRICE
MP485	Silver Star	$46.95
MP405	Circle Of Light	$46.95
MP400	Pandora's Box	$45.95
MP440	Meteorite	$45.95

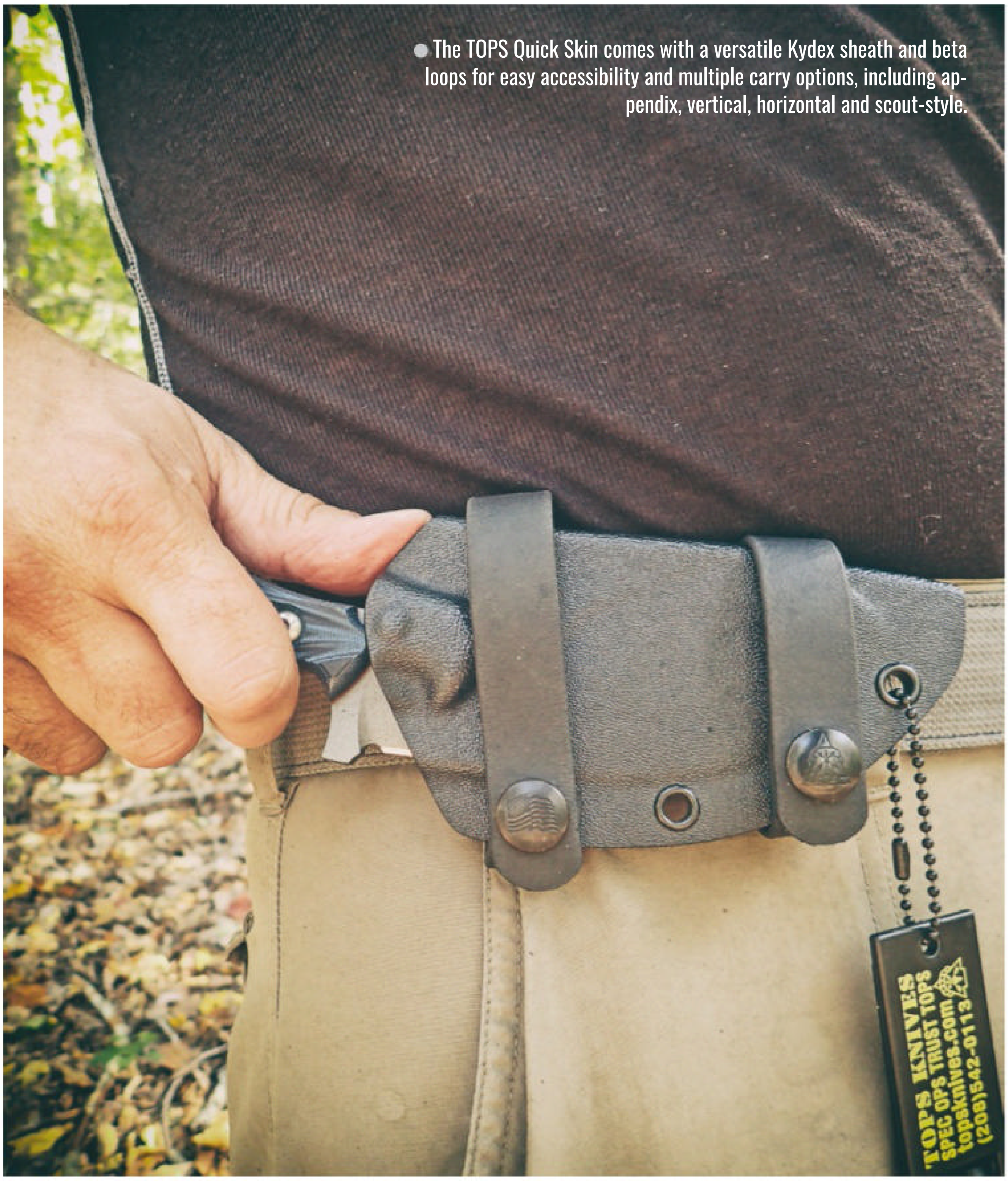
6MM x 4" MOSAIC PINS



Many more available online.

CAT.#	DESCRIPTION	SALE PRICE
MQ1312	Red/Cross	$12.95
MQ0411	Blue/Tree of Life	$19.95
MQ0210	Black/Deer Trophy	$14.95
MQ0550	Black/Puniser	$19.95

BY **REUBEN BOLIEU** BLADE CORRESPONDENT


● The TOPS Quick Skin comes with a versatile Kydex sheath and beta loops for easy accessibility and multiple carry options, including appendix, vertical, horizontal and scout-style.

Bring it with an assortment of approaches to everyday carry

Cool Carry MODES

The carry systems for EDC knives have evolved to offer you a seamless experience, with an array of different spins on pocket clips, sheaths, lanyards and more. This convenience benefits you by saving time, providing peace of mind, encouraging regular carry and increasing utility. The popularity of EDC knives has spurred innovation in design and materials, leading to a market rich with options catering to every preference and need.

The carry systems play a pivotal role in this dynamic, as they directly influence your experience and the practicality of the knife in everyday scenarios. The benefits of EDC knives extend beyond individual use; they represent a culture of preparedness and self-reliance that resonates with many, reflecting a broader trend toward function and efficiency in personal gear.

The TI Lookout Fixed Blade by Big Idea Design offers precision engineering and high-quality materials, making it an essential companion for everyday carry enthusiasts. At the heart of the compact and robust knife is the M390 stainless blade steel, renowned for its superior edge retention and wear resistance. The premium material ensures that the TI Lookout maintains its razor-sharp edge through extensive use, reducing the need for frequent sharpening. The addition of Grade 5 titanium scales provides a sleek aesthetic and contributes to the knife's lightweight yet durable construction. The lanyard hole in the rear handle screw adds a functional touch, allowing for easy attachment and accessibility. The knife offers a perfect balance of control and cutting power.

The two included Kydex sheaths provide versatile carry options for lefties and righties. Each sheath is equipped with a titanium pocket clip that easily affixes inside a standard pocket or sunglass/device pocket found on many outdoor cargo pants. Consider it a gentleman's fixed blade.

I put the TI Lookout through a range of EDC tasks, from cutting mundane materials to pushing it to the limits of the extremely aggressive, stabbing through light gauge metals. The knife thrived in this realm. However, it dragged on thick, heavy-gauge cardboard. After slicing more cord, it remained sharp—it just got hung up a bit on cardboard. Wire, 550 paracord, nylon webbing and heavy leather succumbed to the keen edge.

In this writer's humble opinion, the TI Lookout is not just a cutting tool but a statement piece reflecting the pinnacle of knife craftsmanship and material excellence.

MULTI-TOTE LOOPS

The TOPS Knives Quick Skin marries master craftsmanship, elegance and utility. Designed with the avid hunter in mind, it boasts an "all-belly" blade in a Rockwell hardness of 56-58 HRC that ensures fewer strokes are needed, making skinning quick and painless. It comes with a versatile Kydex sheath sporting beta material loops allowing for various

1. TOPS KNIVES QUICK SKIN

CARRY: Kydex w/beta material loops allowing for appendix, vertical, horizontal or scout-style carry
DESIGNER: Leo Espinoza
BLADE LENGTH: 3.5"
BLADE MATERIAL: 1095 carbon steel
BLADE GRIND: Flat
BLADE @THICKEST: .19"
BLADE FINISH: Tungsten Cerakote™
HANDLE MATERIAL: Dragonfly Tread Micarta®
OVERALL LENGTH: 7.13"
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: USA
MSRP: $230

2. A.G. RUSSELL WOODSWALKER

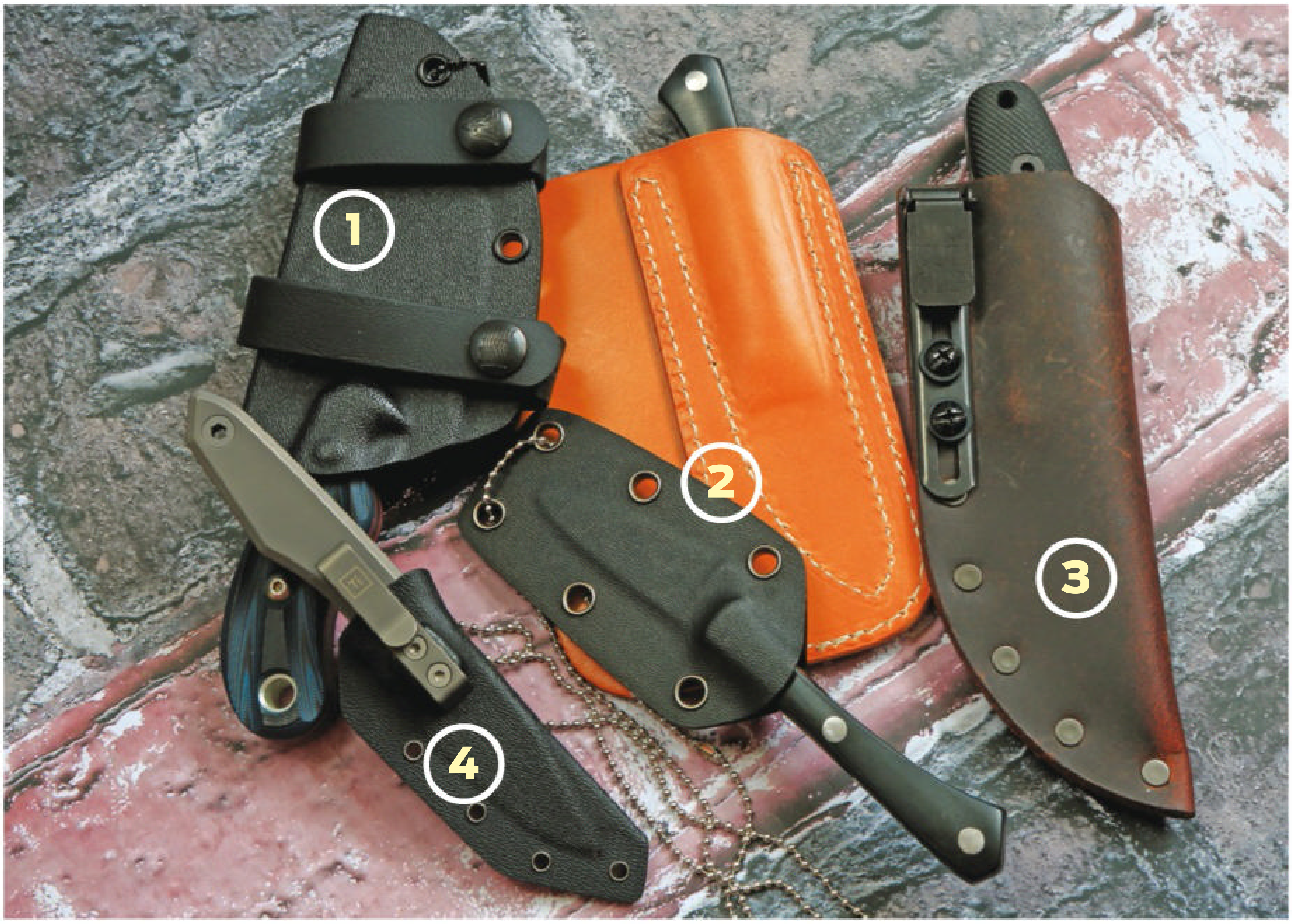
CARRY: Leather pocket sheath that fits into a back or cargo pocket perfectly, or a Kydex neck sheath
BLADE LENGTH: 2 3/8"
BLADE STEEL: 8Cr13MoV stainless
BLADE GRIND: Flat
BLADE @THICKEST: 1/16"
BLADE FINISH: Satin
HANDLE MATERIAL: POM thermoplastic
OVERALL LENGTH: 6"
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: China
MSRP: $34.95 to $36.95

3. REIFF KNIVES CIRCADIAN

CARRY: Crazy horse leather pocket sheath and UltiClip 3.3 Slim attachment
BLADE LENGTH: 3.28"
BLADE STEEL: CPM MagnaCut stainless
BLADE GRIND: Flat saber
BLADE @THICKEST: .12"
BLADE FINISH: Stonewash
BLADE PATTERN: Clip point
HANDLE MATERIAL: Black canvas Micarta®
OVERALL LENGTH: 7.25"
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: USA
MSRP: $285

4. BIG IDEA DESIGN TI LOOKOUT

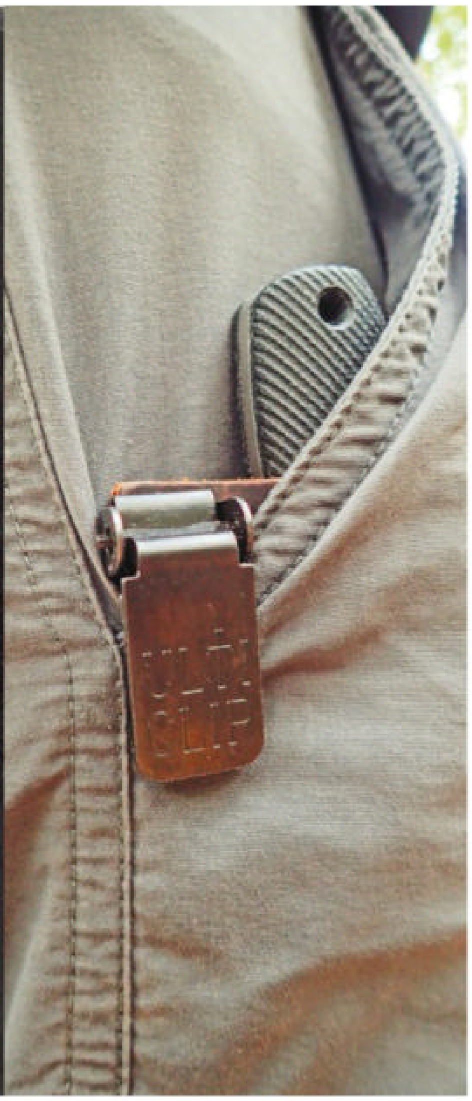
CARRY: Two Kydex sheaths for left- and right-hand pocket carry, each equipped w/a titanium pocket clip
BLADE LENGTH: 2.2"
BLADE STEEL: M390 stainless
BLADE GRIND: Flat
BLADE @THICKEST: .12"
BLADE FINISH: Satin
HANDLE SCALES: Grade 5 titanium
OVERALL LENGTH: 6.2"
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: China
MSRP: $200



Clockwise from top left, the TOPS Quick Skin, A.G. Russell Woodswalker (in leather pocket and Kydex neck sheaths), Reiff Circadian and Big Idea TI Lookout.

ROBUST ULTICLIP

The clips and attachment devices made by UltiClip have revolutionized the way people carry gear, offering a secure and concealable attachment for holsters and sheaths. UltiClip's patented design provides over 10 times the retention of traditional clips, making it a favorite among outdoor enthusiasts for its versatility and reliability. Initially designed by a missionary for discreet firearm carry without a belt, UltiClip has become a staple in the outdoor community, ensuring that knives, firearms, and other gear stay firmly in place during any adventure. Robust construction and American-made quality have made UltiClip indispensable for those looking to enhance their carry systems.—*by Reuben Bolieu*



The Reiff Knives Circadian has a deep carry crazy horse leather pocket sheath and UltiClip 3.3 Slim for versatile carrying options. Inside-the-pocket carry is popular for discreetly carrying EDC fixed blades.

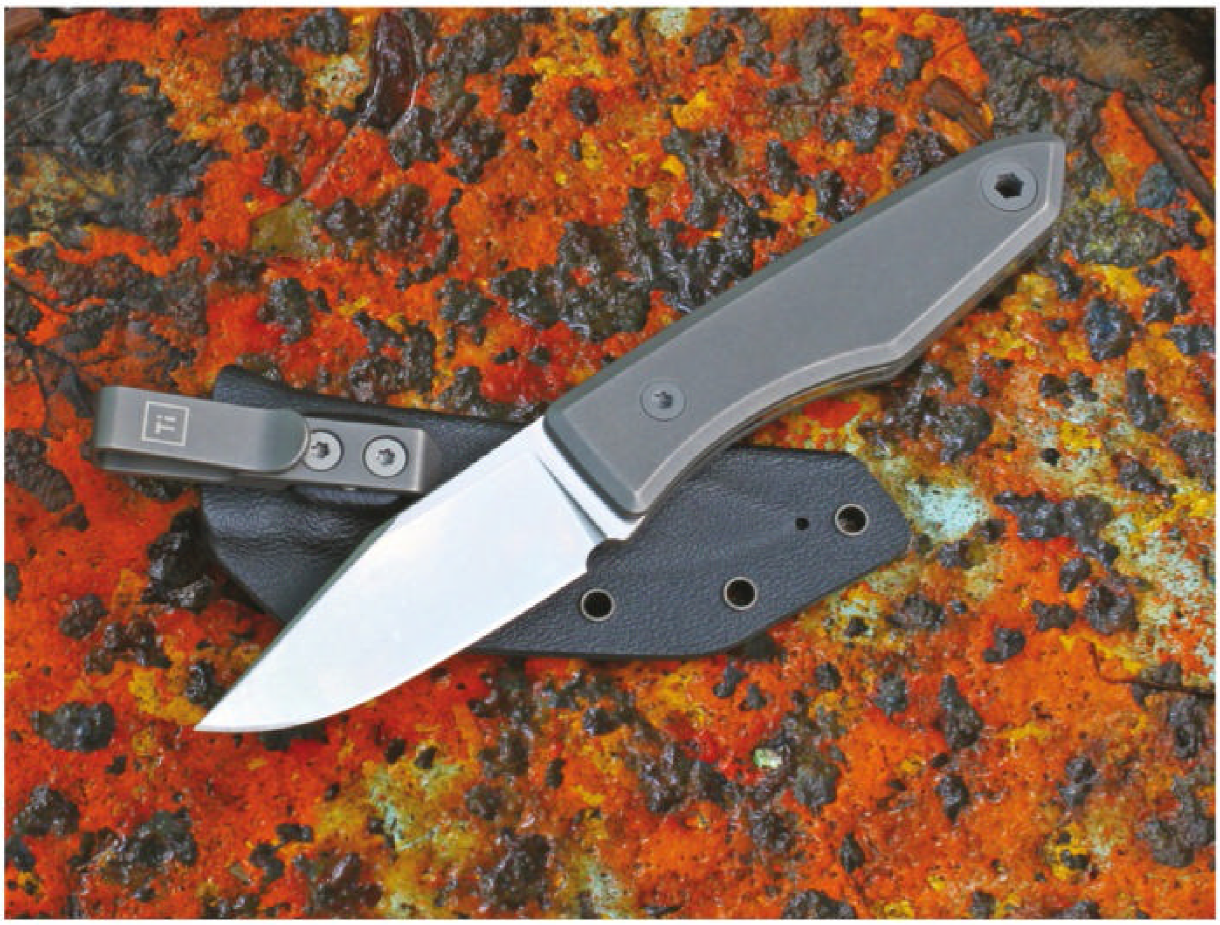
carry positions, including appendix, vertical, horizontal or scout-style. Ultimately, the beta loops will clip to pack straps, keeping the blade easily accessible regardless of your adventure.

The shape of a blade dictates its purpose. The TOPS is designed for slicing and skinning. I opted for an appendix carry for comfort and a non-rib-jabber solution. While all wild game was out of season in my region, food wasn't. Knives with a deep belly thrive on food. The Quick Skin followed suit. Despite its thick blade stock, the knife successfully sliced bacon, peppers, onions and mushrooms. Later, I moved to slicing beef, pork and chicken equally well. Thanks to its sophisticated design and practical features, the Quick Skin is a standout choice for hunters seeking a top-tier skinner.

VERSATILE & DISCREET

With its superior craftsmanship, utility and CPM MagnaCut stainless blade steel, the Reiff Knives Circadian Clip Point EDC Fixed Blade is an ideal choice for outdoor enthusiasts and everyday carry. The blade's stonewash finish adds a rugged aesthetic and helps hide scratches and wear. The handle provides a secure grip even in wet conditions, and the ergonomic design ensures comfort during extended use. Weighing in at only 4.1 ounces, the Circadian offers a lightweight yet robust solution for various cutting tasks.

The knife has a premium, deep carry, crazy horse leather pocket sheath and UltiClip 3.3 Slim for versatile carrying options. Inside-the-pocket carry is popular for discreetly carrying fixed blades. It makes



The Big Idea Design TI Lookout fixed blade offers versatile EDC options with two sheaths for left- and right-hand carry, and comes with a titanium pocket clip for easy attachment to pockets or gear.

LIBERTY WOOD

Our NEW dyed laminated wood handle material. 3/8" x 1-1/2" x 10" size of scale. More colors and slabs are available online.

CAT#	COLOR	PRICE
LW101	Walnut	$12.95
LW109	Silver Black	$12.95
LW181	Olivewood	$12.95
LW112	Indigo Blue	$12.95
LW114	Cocobolo	$12.95
LW120	Emerald Green	$12.95
LW131	Passionwood	$12.95
LW125	Rosewood Burgandy	$12.95
LW127	Lemonwood	$12.95
LW132	Fuschia	$12.95
LW128	Charcoal Ruby	$12.95
LW130	Hawkeye	$12.95
LW183	Cherry Tree	$12.95

PROTECTIVE CASES

Durable protective cases, featuring black Cordura exterior and soft fabric interior with black poly foam padding and a nylon zipper.

CAT.#	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
R6N	Folder 2 1/2" x 6"	$10.95
R7N	Folder 2 1/2" x 8"	$10.95
R10N	Hunter 3" x 10"	$10.95
R13N	Fighter 4" x 13"	$11.95

LINER MATERIAL

Knifemaker: Bidinger Knives

G10 LINERS

5" x 10" G10 Liner Material. Specify thickness & color when ordering. Available in three thicknesses,

1/64" - $8.19 Each
1/32" - $11.95 Each
1/16" - $13.95 Each.

VULCANIZED FIBER

Set of 10 - One of each color
#MI995 - $15.50

G-10 RODS

G-10 rods used for pinning handles. All are in 12" lengths. Also available in 1/8" and 3/16" diameters.

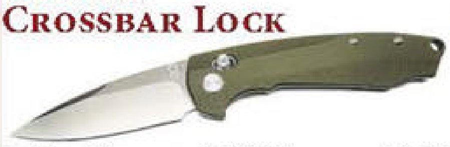
CAT#	COLOR	SIZE	PRICE
MI24411	Blue	1/4"	$7.95
MI24071	Lime Green	1/4"	$7.95
MI24211	Red	1/4"	$7.95
MI24311	Orange	1/4"	$7.95
MI24511	White	1/4"	$7.95
MI24811	Black	1/4"	$7.95
MI24911	Ivory	1/4"	$7.95
MI24611	Maroon	1/4"	$7.95
MI24711	Purple	1/4"	$7.95

BLACK MAMBA SPRING ASSIST LINER LOCK

Folder kit , overall 7 1/4" open, 4 1/4" closed, blade 3" long, 1" wide, and 1/16" thick.

CAT.#	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
SS1557	with Black G10	29.95

PYTHON CROSSBAR LOCK



Folder kit, overall 7 1/4" open, 4 1/4" closed, blade is 3" long, 1" wide, and 1/16" thick.

CAT.#	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
SS156601	with Black G10	39.95
SS156642	with Olive G10	39.95
SS156610	with Red G10	39.95

CABALLERO EDC

Folder kit, overall 7 1/4" open, 4 1/4" closed, blade is 3" long, 1" wide, and 1/16" thick.

CAT.#	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
SS674	Caballero Kit	29.95

HONEY BADGER FLIPPER LINER LOCK

Folder kit, overall 7 1/4" open, 4 1/4" closed, blade is 3" long, 1" wide, and 1/16" thick.

CAT.#	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
SS187601	with Black G10	39.95
SS187642	with Olive G10	39.95
SS187610	with Red G10	39.95

AEB-L STAINLESS STEEL

Combines hardness with sharp edge retention and excellent wear resistance. AEB-L is cold rolled for optimal working as it is in the soft state. NOTE - AEB-L is cut in house from sheets. Cold-rolled steel will "spring" and may have a slight warp to it upon receipt. **Typical chemistry: C 0.67, Mn 0.60, Si 0.40, Cr 13.00, P 0.025, S 0.015.**

CAT#	SIZE	LENGTH	PRICE
AE0815	1/8" x 1 1/2"	18"	$17.07
AE0820	1/8" x 2"	18"	$30.12
AE1015	5/32" x 1 1/2"	18"	$21.68
AE1020	5/32" x 2"	18"	$42.32

14C28N STEEL

Sandvik 14C28N® is a martensitic stainless chromium steel with an optimized chemistry providing a top grade knife steel with a unique combination of excellent edge performance, high hardness and good corrosion resistance. Aim hardness of 55-62 HRC. Also available in 36". **Typical chemistry: C 0.62, Mn 0.60, Si 0.20, Cr 14.00, P 0.025, S 0.010, N 0.11.**

CAT#	SIZE	LENGTH	PRICE
RY1515	1.5mm x 1 1/2"	18"	$18.07
RY2015	2mm x 1 1/2"	18"	$22.75
RY2515	2.5mm x 1 1/2"	18"	$24.86
RY3015	3mm x 1 1/2"	18"	$29.82
RY3020	3mm x 2"	18"	$39.76
RY3515	3.5mm x 1 1/2"	18"	$31.10
RY3520	3.5mm x 2"	18"	$41.47
RY4015	4mm x 1 1/2"	18"	$35.55
RY4020	4mm x 2"	18"	$47.41
RY4520	4.5mm x 2"	18"	$53.31

MULTI-POWER LED HEAD MAGNIFIER

Lens magnification can combine to increase magnification up to 3.8x. Loupe magnification: 4.5x. LED Bulbs. Adjustable Head Strap.

CAT.#	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
SH1067	Iluminated Magnifer	$19.95

HARDENED FILE GUIDE

JANTZ FILE GUIDE
www.knifemaking.com

Precision machined from A-2 tool steel and hardened to 62RHC. Overall 3.250", maximum blade width 2", each jaw is 3/8" x 3/4". Made in USA.

CAT.#	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
FG101	Hardened File Guide	$59.95

KNIFEMAKERS CENTER SCRIBE

Shown marking center in Steel

Scribing center lines for grinding knife blades. Can be adjusted from 0-1/2" with 1/32" per revolution using the fine adjustment screw. Uses a Carbide tip. Made in USA.

CAT.#	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
JS305	Center Scribe	$39.95
JS307	Replace Carbide Tip	$9.95

80CRV2 STEEL

The high carbon, chrome-vanadium chemical composition makes 80CrV2 a good steel for knives. Machines easy, has great edge retention, wear resisitance, and toughness. Aim Hardness 57. Also available in 36". **Chemistry:C .85, Cr .60, Mn .50, Si .30, Ni .40, Mo .10, P .025, S .020**

CAT#	SIZE	LENGTH	PRICE
CZ0615	3/32" x 1 1/2"	18"	$9.47
CZ0620	3/32" x 2"	18"	$12.63
CZ0815	1/8" x 1 1/2"	18"	$12.63
CZ0820	1/8" x 2"	18"	$16.85
CZ1015	5/32" x 1 1/2"	18"	$15.87
CZ1020	5/32" x 2"	18"	$21.16
CZ1215	3/16" x 1 1/2"	18"	$19.00
CZ1220	3/16" x 2"	18"	$25.34
CZ1615	1/4" x 1 1/2"	18"	$25.27
CZ1620	1/4" x 2"	18"	$33.69

15N20

With a 2% high nickel content, 15N20 is the layer of steel that produces the bright contrast for making Damascus. **Typical chemistry:C .75, Mn .40, Si .30, Ni 2.00, P max .020, S max .010**

CAT#	SIZE	LENGTH	PRICE
XN152	.049" x 1 1/2"	12"	$9.13
XN252	.049" x 2"	12"	$12.17
XN196	.095" x 1 1/2"	36"	$39.28
XN296	.095" x 2"	36"	$52.38

KNIFE SHARPENING WHEEL SET

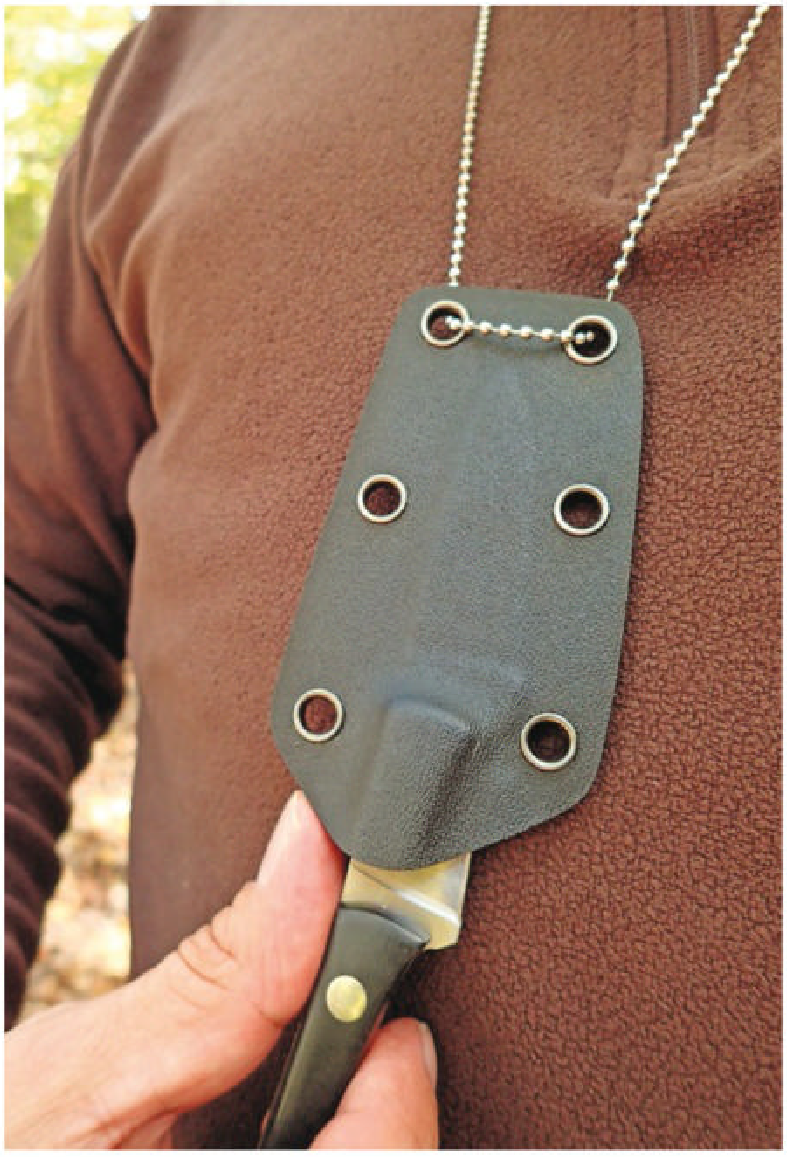
Used by professionals, this two 7.5" wheel system allows the user to grind a fine edge then clean & polish to a sharp edge.

CAT.#	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
WKS750	Sharpening Wheels	$34.95

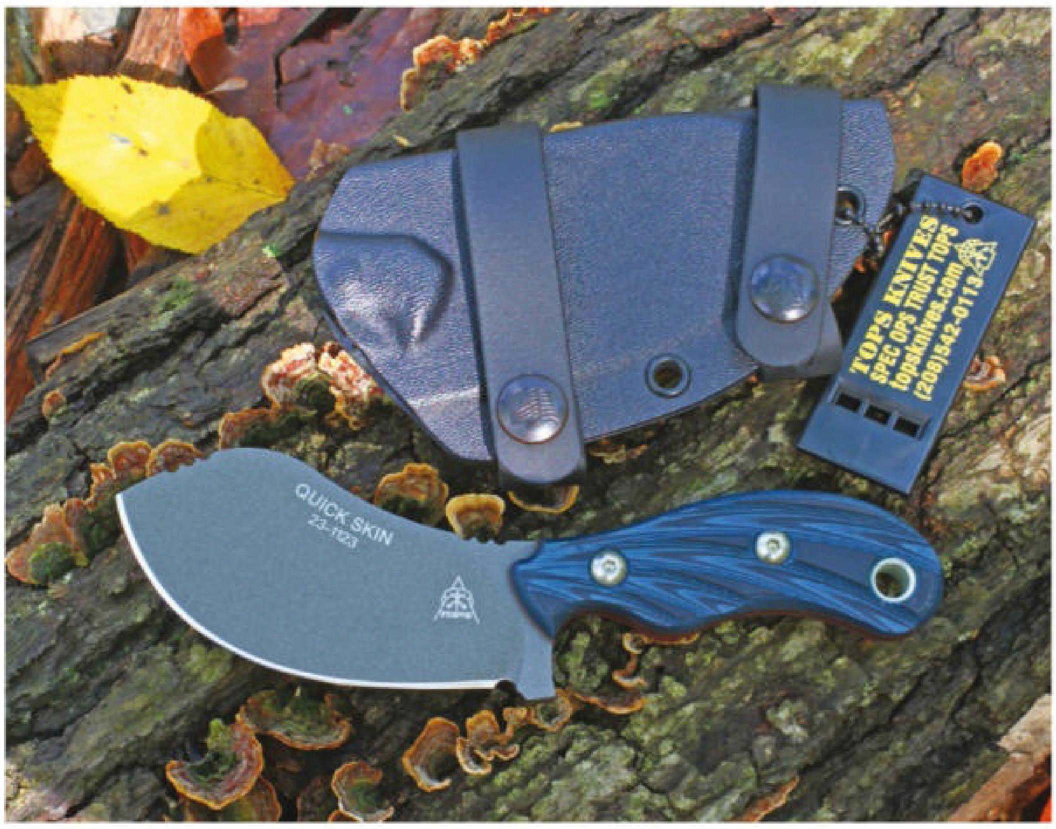
WEST SYSTEM
G/flex
G/flex

G5 EPOXY is a fast curing epoxy for quick repairs, tooling and general bonding. 3-5 min. curing. **G-FLEX EPOXY** is a toughened, resilient two-part epoxy engineered for superior grip. G-Flex absorbs the stresses of expansion, contraction, shock and vibration. Cures in 7-10 hrs. **G-FLEX SYRINGE** same G-Flex epoxy in a convenient syringe.

CAT.#	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
WE8654	G5 Five Minute 8oz	$31.39
WE6508	G-Flex Liquid 8oz	$33.19
WE6551	G-Flex Syringe .84oz	$22.95



The author preferred the neck carry option when toting the A.G. Russell Woodswalker.



The TOPS Knives Quick Skin is a hunter's EDC with a sheath for comfortable horizontal and other carry modes.

the knife unobtrusive and out of the view of the sheepish. More importantly, it gives a release option, making it easier to free the secure grip from your pocket. The UltiClip 3.3 Slim offers a versatile and secure method for attaching the knife to various clothing or gear, enhancing practicality and convenience.

As well as the Reiff fits into the EDC world, it teeters on the line of woods-worthy EDC. I was in the northeast woodlands during the test, and the Circadian was on hand. The knife was tasked with splitting wood via baton and also a round or two of feathering. It didn't disappoint. Fit finish and comfort are standard. The handle offers a full-hand grip and the blade is stout.

DUAL CARRY

The A.G. Russell Woodswalker is a versatile, durable knife designed in the 1970s for the outdoorsman who values tradition and function. Crafted for the casual hunt-

MAGNACUT
USA

The Reiff Knives Circadian glided through wood to create copious curlicues.

TAC
Saffire
Diafire
SHOT·SHOW
2025 OFFICIAL EXHIBITOR

Visit us at booth
#72708
Jan. 21-24, 2025
Las Vegas, NV

sales@dots-us.com
www.dots-us.com | DOTS USA

XCALIBUR METALWORKX.NET

WROUGHT - BLADE SUPPLIES - ANVILS (COMING SOON)

18+

WHAT IS
AVAXHOME?

AVAXHOME –

the biggest Internet portal, providing you various content: brand new books, trending movies, fresh magazines, hot games, recent software, latest music releases.

Unlimited satisfaction one low price
Cheap constant access to piping hot media
Protect your downloadings from Big brother
Safer, than torrent-trackers

18 years of seamless operation and our users' satisfaction

All languages
Brand new content
One site

AVXLIVE.ICU

AvaxHome - Your End Place

We have everything for all of your needs. Just open https://avxlive.icu

The author tested the Big Idea Design TI Lookout on various everyday carry tasks, and it effortlessly handled wire, 550 paracord, nylon webbing and heavy leather.

Choose between the original leather pocket sheath, designed to fit into a back or cargo pocket, or the Kydex® neck sheath for convenient carry with the A.G. Russell Woodswalker.

er, this lightweight, non-folding pocketknife is perfect for a tranquil morning in the wilderness. Whether you're pursuing small game like quail, squirrel, dove or rabbit, or preparing a meal in the great outdoors, the Woodswalker excels with its drop point blade in a Rockwell hardness of 57-59 HRC. Full-tang construction ensures stability and balance, while the handle provides a comfortable and secure grip. Measuring 6 inches overall and weighing a mere 1.2 ounces, it's an unobtrusive addition to any hunter's gear.

Choose between the leather pocket sheath, which fits into back or cargo pockets perfectly, or the Kydex® neck sheath for convenient carry. I used both but I hate my pockets weighing me down. The neck carry option suited me well.

The Woodswalker is the classic of the test batch of roughnecks. It's been there and back—that's why I spared it no quarter. In my usual neck of the woods, I wanted to make a small fire and selected hardwoods like oak and maple to craft feather sticks. This one isn't a splitter or chopper, so act accordingly. It feathered wood like a dream and felt like a zipper effortlessly gliding through wood. The most impressive feature that's not mentioned in any product description is the sharp 90-degree spine, ideal for striking a ferro rod and showering sparks worthy of the 4th of July. This knife isn't just a tool, it's a trusty companion for all your outdoor adventures.

For the contact information for the knives in the story, see "Where To Get 'Em" on page 47.

For the latest knives, knife news, trends and more, visit ***blademag.com,*** BLADE®*'s popular Instagram page* ***@blade_magazine****, and on* ***Facebook*** *and* ***Twitter****.*

The Reiff Circadian carries in a crazy horse leather pocket sheath with UltiClip 3.3 Slim attachment.

A Great Knife Starts
with Great Steel

100%
EMPLOYEE OWNED
AND OPERATED

USA
MELTED AND
MANUFACTURED

NEW
CPM S45VN AND
CPM MAGNACUT

NIAGARA
SPECIALTY METALS

info@nsm-ny.com
800-424-0048
www.nsm-ny.com

We carry stainless steel, tool steel,
all CPM alloys and 6-4 Titanium
in all of the common cutlery sizes.

BK82 | Becker MagnaCut Campanion
Now Available at KA-BAR.com

KA-BAR
200 Homer Street • Olean, NY 14760
800-282-0130 • info@ka-bar.com
KA-BAR.com

BY **BLADE® STAFF**

Knife Landslide IN UTAH

On election eve, BLADE Show West fetes its cutlery constituents

With a presidential election looming and parts of the USA still in a state of shock after the natural disasters of Hurricanes Helene and Milton (page 10), it was a BLADE Show West unlike any other. However, knife people are a hearty lot and many turned out to enjoy the knives and cutlery camaraderie this past October at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah.

"The environment was good as usual, with lots of excitement," wrote Jonathan McNees of McNees Knives. Eddie Johnson of CobraTec echoed Jonathan's assessment. "As always, the environment was enthusiastic and filled with excitement to see and hold new merchandise," he commented. "There is nothing like holding that knife you have seen pictures and videos of."

There were custom and factory knife awards galore (page 60), the show's popular "Let The Pros Critique Your Knife" seminar, the West Coast Flipping Championships conducted by Squid Industries, and much more.

As for those all-important knife and knife accessory sales, it was like most shows: some exhibitors did well, some didn't and some did OK.

"It was a great show," Pro-Tech headman Dave Wattenberg exclaimed. "We did sell most everything that we brought, strong sales to both retail customers and dealers who attended. It's very important to have both and this show did work well for retail and dealer dynamics."

The Pro-Tech models that sold well were a mix. "New models always do well—the Chaves collabora-

From right behind the table, ABS journeyman smiths Erik Fritz and Mike Tyre and ABS master smith Shane Taylor are lost in a sea of humanity.

> “IT’S IMPORTANT TO MAKE SOME SPECIAL PIECES FOR THE SHOW, NOT JUST OFFER THE SAME THING CUSTOMERS CAN BUY ANYTIME.”
> —DAVE WATTENBERG

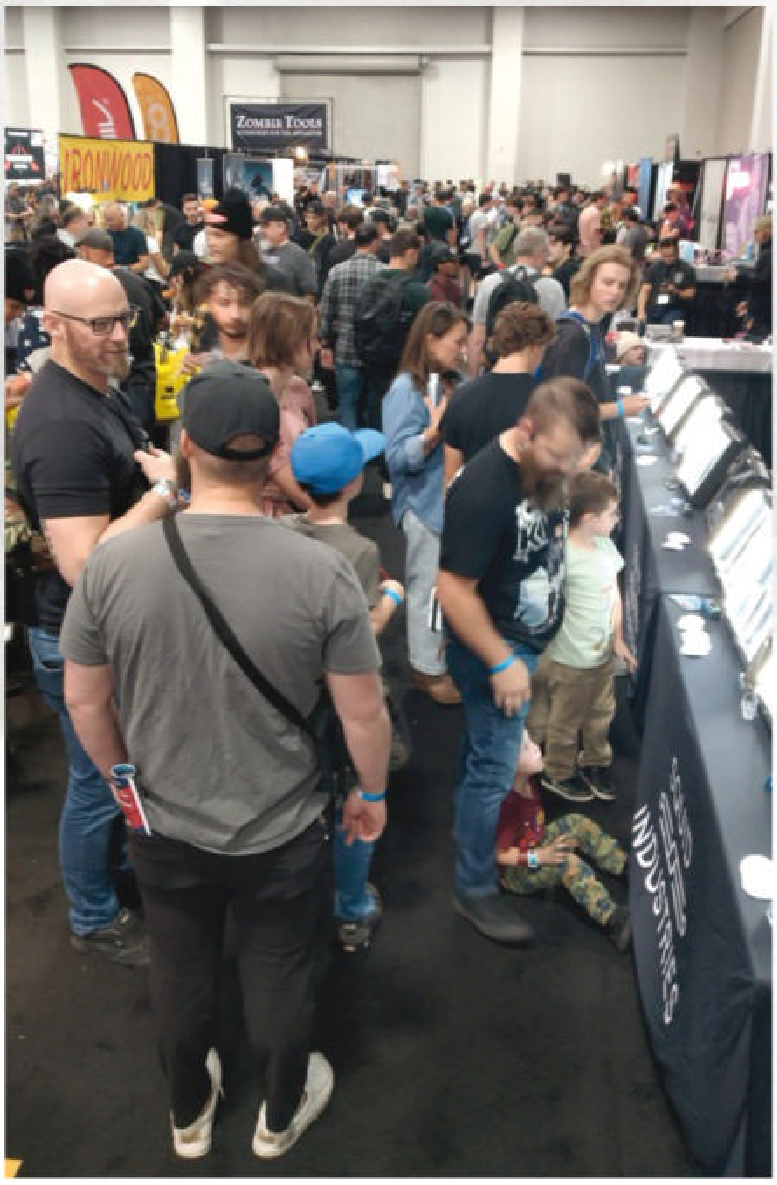
tion [page 63] did very well,” Dave noted. “Some oldie but goodie models—Godfathers, etc.—also did very well. Our TR-3 Integrity manual folder was a hot ticket for sure.

“We built an amazing group of show specials; they also did very well. It’s important to make some special pieces for the show, not just offer the same thing customers can buy anytime.”

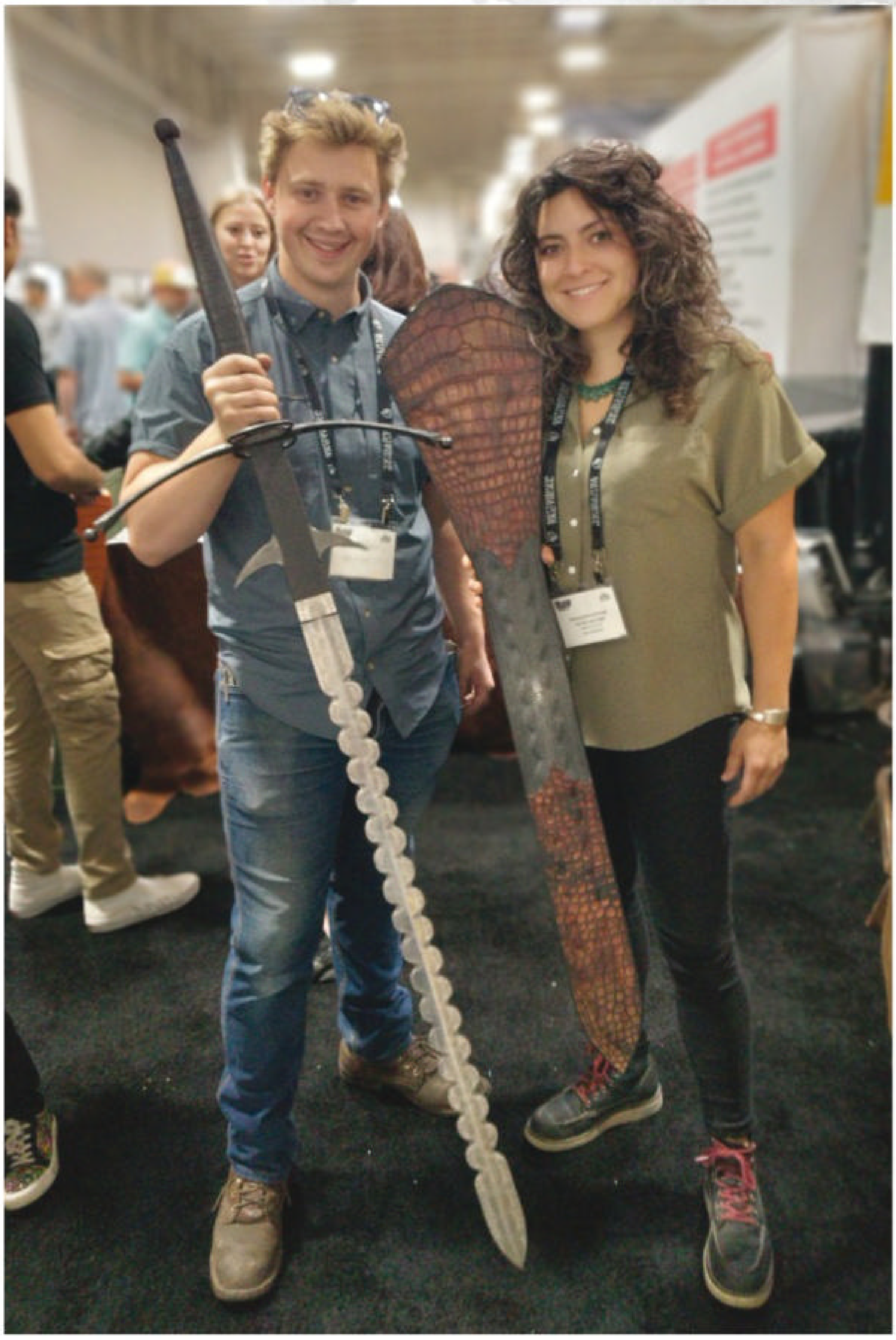
John Cammenga of another factory cutlery company, White River Knife & Tool, also was pleased with sales. “We had a very good show,” he remarked. “We had great sales and a dealer took everything we didn’t sell. It’s nice to go home sold out!”

Ernest Emerson of Emerson Knives, Inc., was another who said it was a great show. “We sold out, with the first day rivaling the BLADE Show in Atlanta,” he opined. Jonathan McNees said his company had a “really good show. We didn’t quite sell out but we brought a lot of knives, so I didn’t expect to. Our folders sold best, but again, that’s to be expected with our customer base.”

While CobraTec sold well, sales were off about 30 percent from their show average over the previous two years. “Everyone was concerned over the current economy and its uncertainty with the election approaching,” Eddie Johnson wrote. Nonetheless, he said several CobraTec knives were “good movers, from the Enforcer OTF to the Raptor to the OTF Utility Knife to our Koonsman fixed blade.”



Families were a big part of the show.



Bladesmith Will Stelter displays his two-handed sword with a wildly undulating blade of mosaic damascus, and Francesca Ritchie holds the scabbard she made of deer hide overlaid with rayskin and hand-dyed American alligator. Francesca carved and underlaid the inside of the scabbard to form fit the curvature of the blade, the imprint of the latter you can see on the outside of the scabbard.

Bladesmith Seth Lopez examines a show patron's knife while custom knifemaker Shane Magnussen (left) and (from right) maker Jared Oeser and bladesmith Will Stelter look on in the popular show seminar, "Let The Pros Critique Your Knife."

"WE HAD GREAT SALES AND A DEALER TOOK EVERYTHING WE DIDN'T SELL. IT'S NICE TO GO HOME SOLD OUT!"—JOHN CAMMENGA

Custom maker Tobin Hill agreed with Johnson's economy/election observation. "Talking with other exhibitors, the general consensus was tighter pocketbooks due to economy worries and pre-election jitters," he wrote. Tobin brought eight knives and sold three—two of his Hill Locks with the rear bolster release and a lockback whittler.

DEMOGRAPHIC MIX

Like show sales, attendees ran the gamut, from young and old, novice to sophisticated buyers and more. "The crowd seemed like a bigger percentage of experienced buyers versus the BLADE Show in Atlanta and BLADE Show Texas," McNees observed. "We really enjoyed the local crowd. They were extremely friendly and receptive. We got lots of appreciation for coming out."

The fact that it was the third straight year at the Salt Palace Convention Center seemed to help, too. "It was good to see repeat customers, so I'm glad we've been at the same venue for a few years," Cammenga wrote.

"There was a nice mix in demographics," Johnson pointed out. "As always, it is great to see the entire family out enjoying the show. I had several sales to the younger generation with the supervision and guidance of their parents."

"There was a very healthy mix of already established Pro-Tech enthusiasts as well as first time buyers," Pro-Tech's Wattenberg wrote. "It did feel like a smaller crowd than last year, but we did have customers to work with the entire time, so no complaints. I especially love the family atmosphere; there were so many nice people."

"The crowd seemed an even mix of young and old, several families with kids," Hill reported. "There were not many 'sophisticated' buyers or dealers."

According to one industry professional, the fewer buyers and dealers than usual from the Eastern USA may have been due to the poor economy and also the aforementioned Hurricanes Helene and Milton that hit shortly before the show.

CONTACTS GALORE

Shows are about contacts, not only among show attendees and exhibitors but among the exhibitors themselves, including factory knife companies and custom makers to broach possible collaborations and other knife deals.

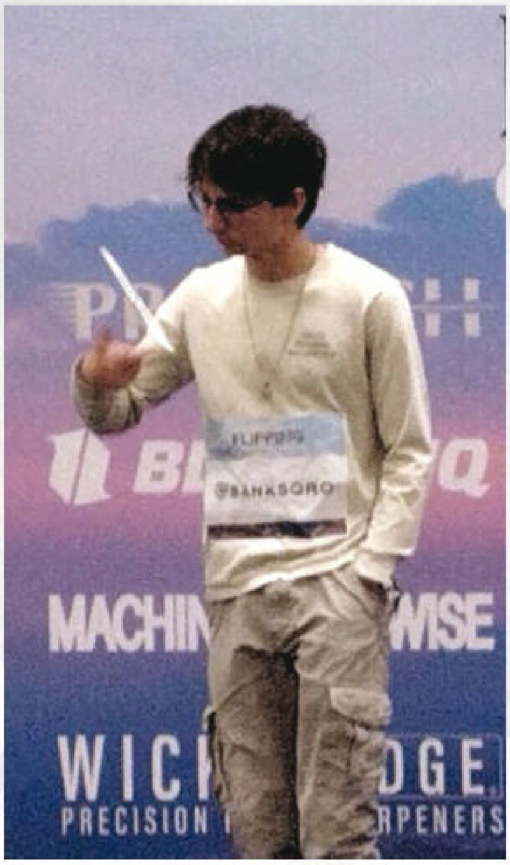
"We made good contacts with other makers, including some prominent ones we had not previously met," McNees wrote. "The size of the show was good for that." Added Johnson, "The BLADE

SERGE KNIVES

Gavin Hawk (center, behind the table) makes another sale at the Hawk Knife Designs booth.

COBRATEC KNIVES
SURGEON
DOMINATOR
SHEATH INCLUDED
M390 STEEL
POCKET CLIP
D2 STEEL
AVAILABLE IN S/M/L
6061-T6 ALUMINUM
COBRATECKNIVES.COM

PRO-TECH KNIVES
TR-3 Integrity
Button Lock Manual
protechknives.com
protechknives
1037 S Melrose St, Unit B • Placentia, CA 92807 • 562-860-0678



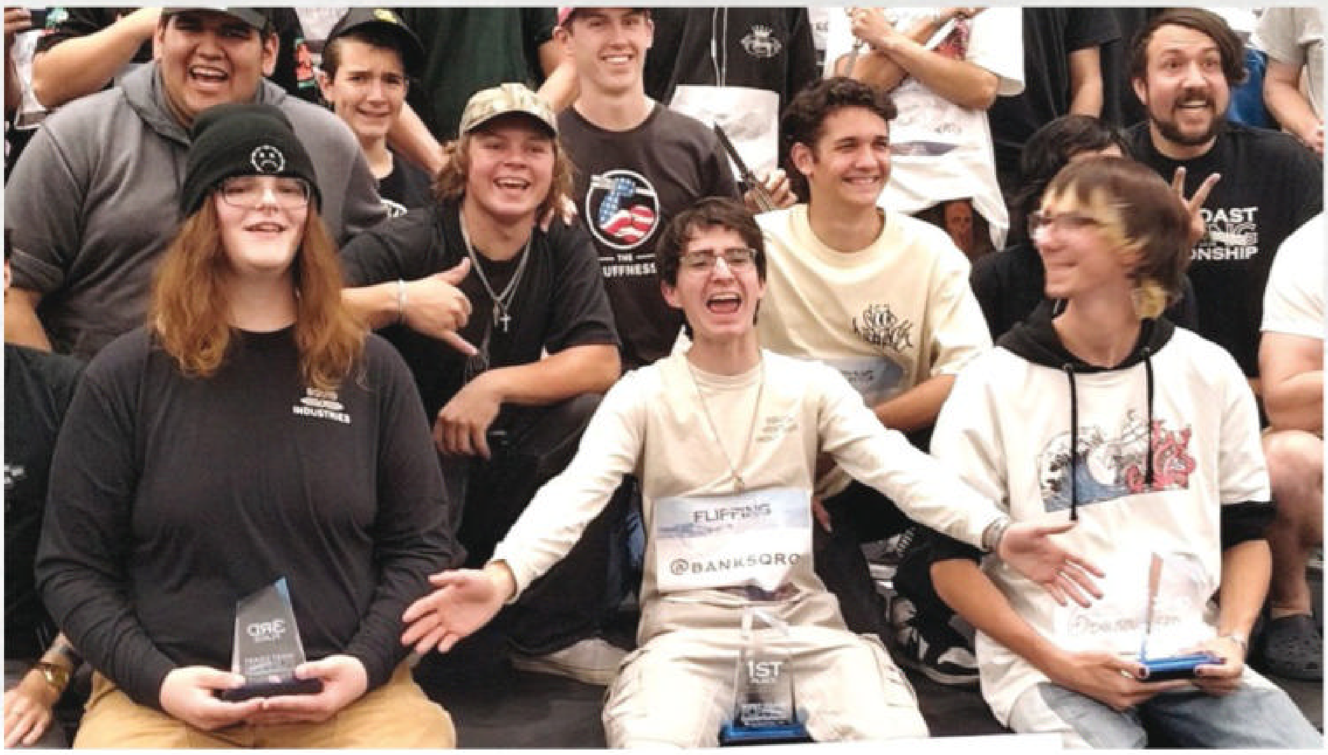
“WE MADE GOOD CONTACTS WITH OTHER MAKERS, INCLUDING SOME PROMINENT ONES WE HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY MET.” —JONATHAN MCNEES

Show always gives us an opportunity to meet various designers and talk about collaborations.” Wattenberg agreed. “We had a few excellent conversations with makers,” he noted.

FLIPPING AWESOME

The 5th Annual West Coast Flipping Championships conducted by Squid Industries was another rousing packed-house event, with Squid providing cash prizes of $1,000 for first place, $500 for second and $250 for third.

Banks Tracy, aka banksqro, took home the title using a Squid Silver Krake Raken Tanto V3 balisong. Runnerup was Max Wenham, aka balisongnerd, who also used a Squid Silver Krake Raken Tanto V3 bal-



The top three finishers in the West Coast Flipping Championships celebrate, front row from left: Madi “oximityy” Thomas (3rd), Banks “banksqro” Tracy (1st), and Max “balisongnerd” Wenham (2nd). Tracy shows his championship form (inset).

A patron plays with a knife by Blake Parthenay (left).

Spyderco’s Michael Janich (left) looks over a patron’s knife at the Spyderco booth.

Ironwood beauties!

Presenting three of our most beautiful premium folding knives. Equipped with our best edge steels available. The TK3, RL1 and Phantom are not only great looking, they also perform extremely well.

Visit *www.fallkniven.com* for more information.

TK3ic

RL1di

Phantom Anniversary

@officialfallkniven

FallknivenSweden

US distributors:
www.blueridgeknives.com
www.jboutman.com

FÄLLKNIVEN
SWEDEN

www.fallkniven.com
info@fallkniven.se

40 YEARS 1984-2024

Exquisite Knives

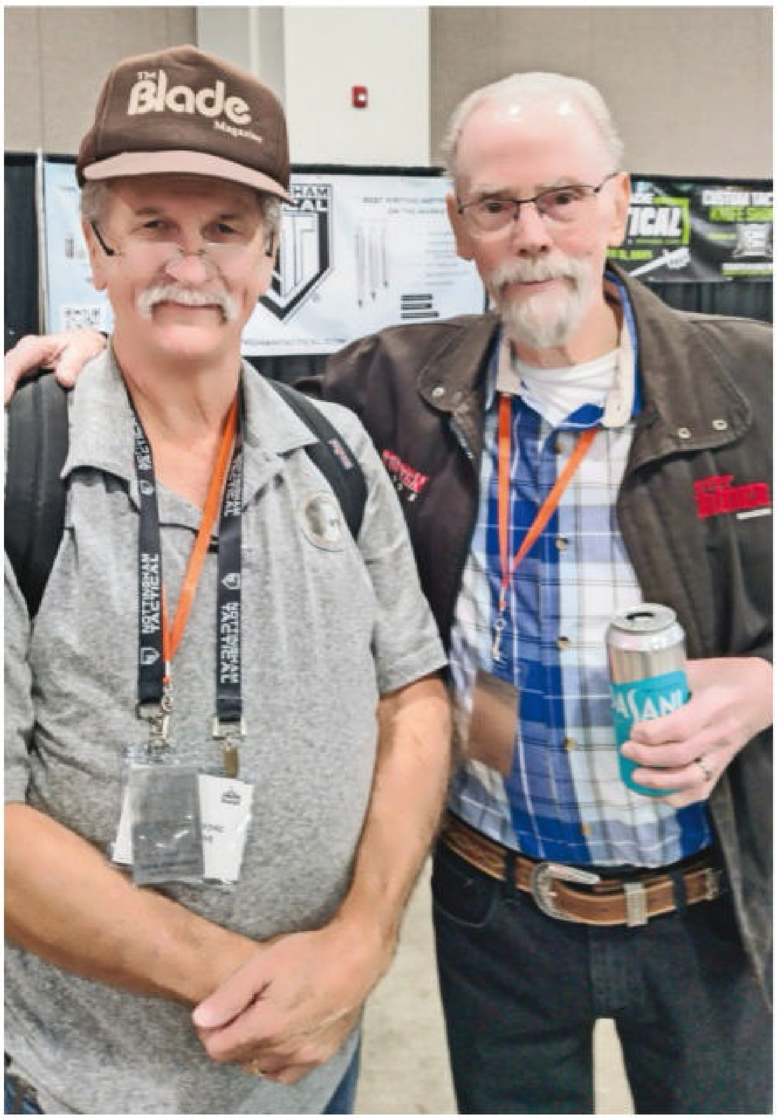
"Representing the Opportunity of a Lifet
for the Discriminati llector"

Photography by
Knifemaker Ricardo Velarde
Instagram #velardestudio

DAVID ELLIS

ABS MASTERSMITH - PURVEYOR - 760-310-4078
EXQUISITEKNIVES@GMAIL.COM
WWW.EXQUISITEKNIVES.COM

Fixed blades and choppers were among the knives of the day.



Two Cutlery Hall of Famers enjoy each other's company: *BLADE®* editor Steve Shackleford (left) and heat-treating legend Paul Bos (right).

So many knives, so little time.

Kansept
BIG IDEA DESIGN
BIGIDESIGN.COM

The Big Idea Design (page 24) booth was hopping.

isong. Madi Thomas, aka oximityy, took third with her Squid DT Red Krake Raken Tanto V3 balisong. The top three finishers also won prizes from the events' gold sponsors.

BLADE SHOW WEST '25

If you were there, you know; if you weren't, you need to be. Make it so and plan now to attend next year's BLADE Show West, Oct. 10-11, once again at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City.

For more information on BLADE Show West 2025, visit bladeshow-west.com.

For the contact information for the knives in the story, see "Where To Get 'Em" on page 47.

*For the latest knives, knife news, trends, and more, visit **blademag.com,** BLADE®'s popular Instagram page **@blade_magazine**, and on **Facebook** and **Twitter**.*

BLADE

FULLY SUPPRESSED
RANGE DAY + GUN SHOW

RECOIL
CAN
CON

ARIZONA
APR 10-12 2025

CAROLINAS
NOV 7-8, 2025

TRY OUT HUNDREDS OF GUNS, SUPPRESSORS AND OPTICS
+ GEAR FOR SALE + 50+ LANES OF FIREARMS + DAILY GIVEAWAYS

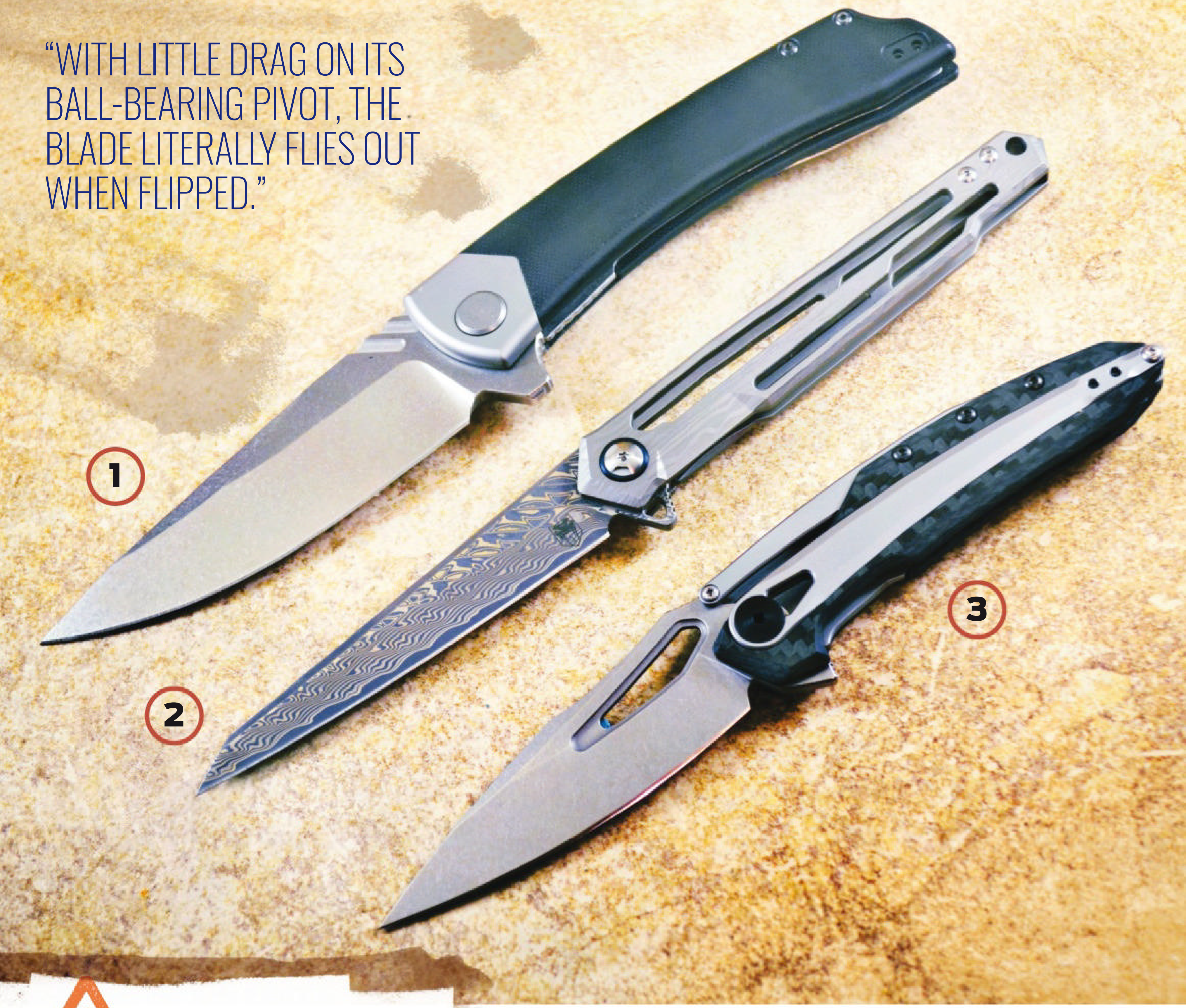
CANCONEVENT.COM

@CANCONEVENT

SIGN UP TO OUR NEWSLETTER
FOR ALL THE LATEST INFORMATION
ABOUT CANCON

>> KNIFE IMAGES BY PAT COVERT

> "WITH LITTLE DRAG ON ITS BALL-BEARING PIVOT, THE BLADE LITERALLY FLIES OUT WHEN FLIPPED."



The featured flipper folders, from top: Bladerunners Systems Khopesh, CobraTec Ghost and Zero Tolerance 0990.

1. BLADERUNNERS SYSTEMS KHOPESH

BLADE LENGTH: 4"
BLADE STEEL: Bohler M390 stainless
BLADE PATTERN: Drop point
PIVOT: Ball bearing
HANDLE MATERIAL: Titanium, black G-10
CARRY: Pocket clip
WEIGHT: 6 ozs.
CLOSED LENGTH: 5"
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: China
MSRP: $196.95

2. COBRATEC GHOST FRAME LOCK

BLADE LENGTH: 3.75"
BLADE STEEL: Damascus
BLADE PATTERN: Modified wharncliffe
PIVOT: Ball bearing
HANDLE MATERIAL: Titanium
CARRY: Pocket clip
WEIGHT: 2.4 ozs.
CLOSED LENGTH: 5"
SPECIAL FEATURE: Glass breaker
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: USA
MSRP: $199.99

3. ZERO TOLERANCE 0990

BLADE LENGTH: 3.25"
BLADE STEEL: CPM 20CV stainless
BLADE PATTERN: Drop point
HANDLE MATERIAL: Carbon fiber, steel overlay
CARRY: Pocket clip
WEIGHT: 2.9 ozs.
CLOSED LENGTH: 4.4"
SPECIAL FEATURE: Floating Bridge skeletonized frame
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: USA
MSRP: $330

FAST FLIPPER FEST

Ponder three markedly diverse examples of the quickest manual one-handers

When BLADE Magazine Cutlery Hall-of-Fame® member Kit Carson's CRKT M16 design hit the shelves in 1999, it was a crapshoot in a rapidly growing field of modern tactical folders. To say the least, the M16 caught on like gangbusters and, well, here we are a quarter century later featuring the genre in *BLADE®*. Kit is no longer with us but his legacy is cemented in cutlery history as the popularizer of the modern-day flipper folder.

At 9 inches open and 6.07 ounces, the Bladerunners Systems (BRS) Khopesh is the big bad wolf of the test bunch. The large stonewashed blade rolls out with ease thanks to a smooth ball bearing pivot. The flipper is the main mode of transportation for the blade, though it is pinch-able via three diagonal blade grooves to assist. The handle has V-shaped, bead-blasted titanium bolsters with silky rails housing a linerlock. A machined, reversible titanium pocket clip completes the package.

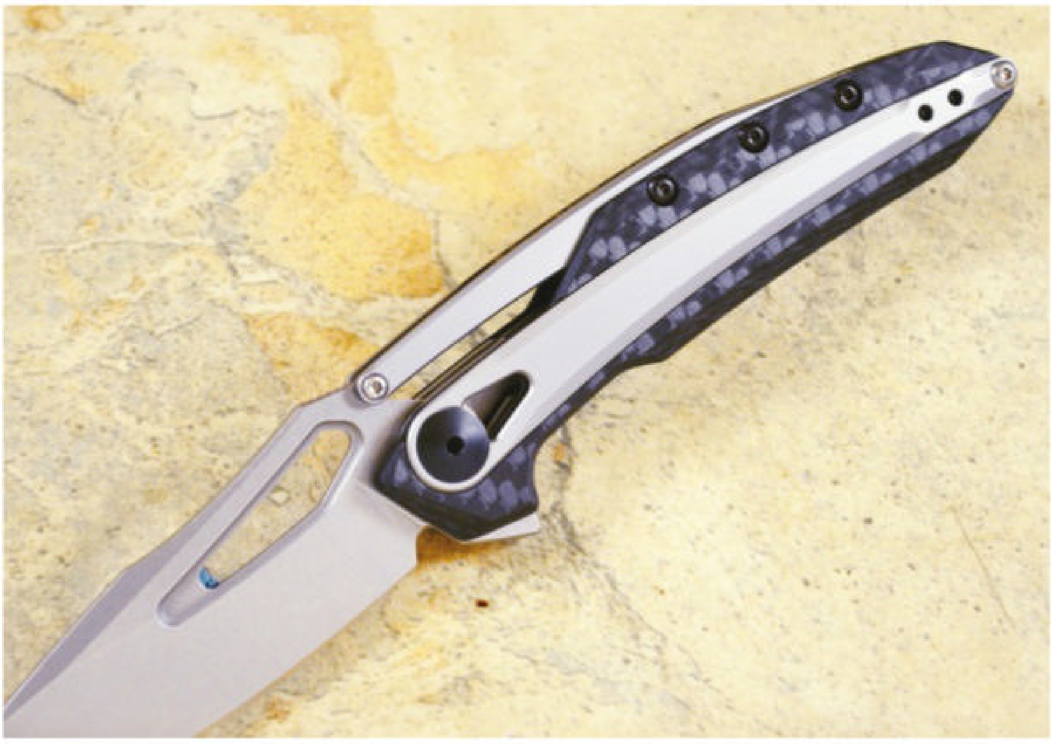
The Khopesh is over twice the heft of the two lightest review folders and, considering the weight, I didn't expect the blade to fly out of the handle when using the flipper. However, I was delightfully surprised at how well the pivot added to the speed of deployment. With a bit of practice you can get quite proficient at it, and its size works to its advantage as the large handle aids in getting a good grip. The BRS entry won't set any speed records for blade rollout but it's fast enough for most applications.

A knife as large as the Khopesh also offers more utility advantages than a smaller one. The flipper folder is game for a lot of uses, whether cutting rope or preparing a meal on the go. I tested the blade on a chub of summer sausage and lopped off quarter-inch slices like a walk in the park.

ZOOM ZOOM!

Zero Tolerance pushes the design envelope with the 0990, a spinoff of its limited edition 0999. The 0990 is highly skeletonized to the point that even the blade stop—

The ZT has a small tab that once fired flips the blade out in the blink of an eye. Practice makes perfect when using a flipper folder with a small tab or slim handle.



The floating bridge blade stop on the spine adds to the 0990's futuristic styling. With the blade closed, the bridge serves as the jump off point for the flipper tab.

TERRACHETE MACHETE
This woodsman's tool can handle any environment.

CONDOR® Tool & Knife

- 3.0 mm, 1075 High Carbon Steel
- Condor® Classic Finish
- High Impact Polypropylene Handle
- High Impact Polypropylene with Leather Belt Loop Sheath
- Limited Lifetime Warranty
- Satisfaction Guaranteed
- Hand Crafted in El Salvador

www.condortk.com
Request Free Catalog: elsalvadora@imacasa.com

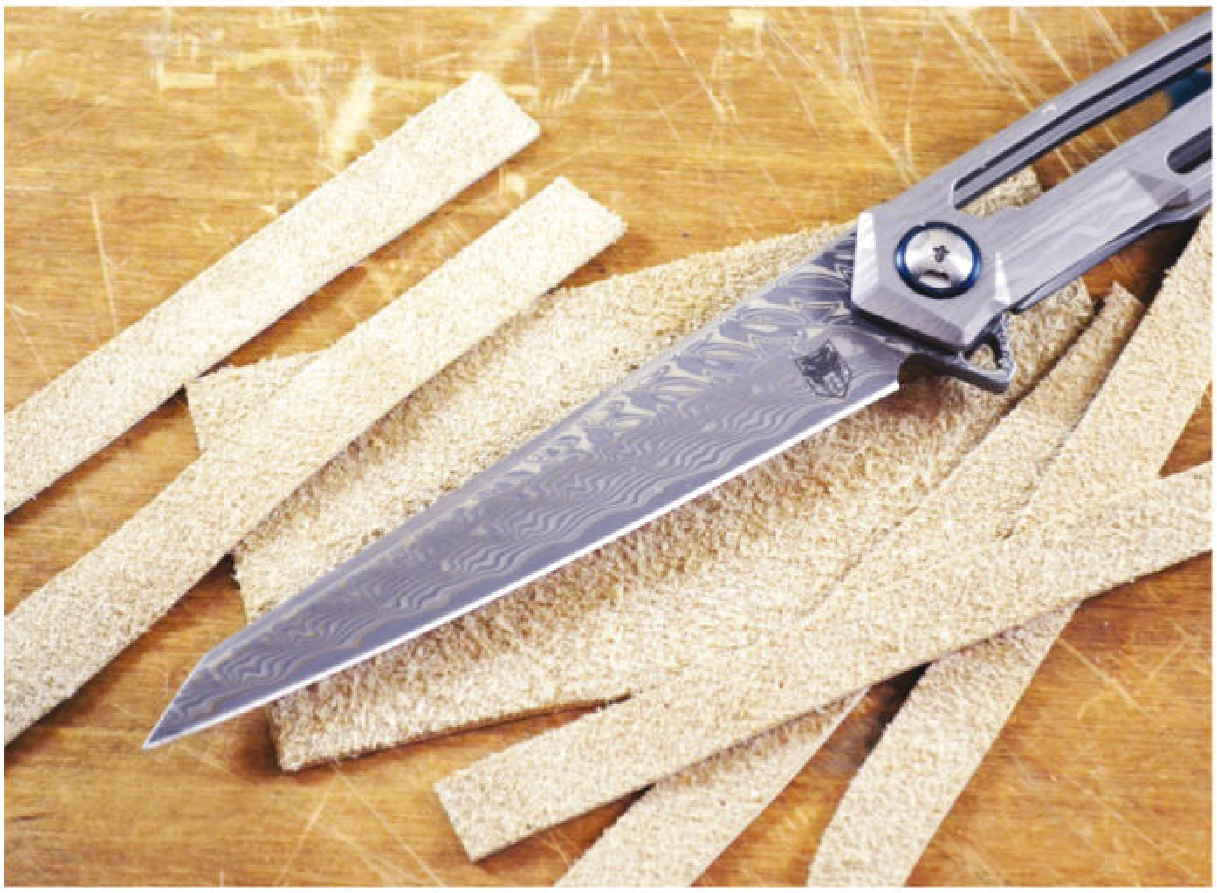
NC Tool Company Inc
6133 Hunt Rd Pleasant Garden, NC 27313
336-674-5654 | 800-446-6498
www.nctoolco.com

NC Knifemaker 21 Gas Forge
-Easy on fuel
-Reaches welding temperature

NC Knifemaker Anvil
-Classic traditional design
-Shipping weight 70 lbs

A Bladesmithing Combination
Place Your Order Today!

“THE TIP EXTENDS THE BLADE’S SLICING ABILITY BEYOND THE STANDARD SYMMETRICAL STILETTO.”



● The CobraTec Ghost gets a boost in the utility department from its modified wharncliffe damascus blade. Note the clean slicing job it performed on skived leather. CobraTec’s Eddie Johnson (inset) displays the Ghost at BLADE Show West (pages 32 and 60).

aka a floating bridge—is exposed. The 4.4-inch handle features a steel frame with black carbon fiber onlays. The blade secures open via a linerlock hidden by the carbon fiber on the front frame rail. The tip-up pocket clip can be reversed to the front. The blade operates on a KVT ball bearing pivot and can be flipper-activated or pinched open by its oblong cutout.

The 0990 is the most distinctive member of the test trio both design- and flipper-wise. When the blade is closed the flipper tab extends out under the floating bridge. When flipped, the blade tang revolves and snicks into place on the bridge, holding the blade rigid. It’s what blades normally do—you just get to see it happen. The flipper tab is small, so it helps to practice flipping it to become totally familiar with its location and action. Practice makes perfect. Once activated, the KVT ball-bearing does a great job of flinging the blade out post haste, and the whole system is tight as a drum.

The ZT flipper folder is a mid-sized EDC capable of small-to-medium tasks—from opening mail and packages, preparing snacks, even cutting paracord and 3/8-inch rappelling rope—and in a pinch will offer a welcome level of protection. I tested the blade on some rope and paracord and the CPM 20CV blade cut extremely well. Plus, the 0990 will definitely wow your friends on work breaks.

SPEED DEMON

CobraTec's streamlined Ghost flipper folder has all the style and grace of a stiletto on steroids, eschewing a symmetrical dagger blade for a wicked modified wharncliffe with linerlock. The knife adds to its mystique with a damascus blade and skeletonized handle etched in a pattern complementing the blade steel. That's a lot to digest but,

The Khopesh is a handful of knife. The flipper tab is easily accessed and plenty big for the fingertip to do its thing. The wide handle offers excellent grip for the remaining fingers and thumb. Even the inner pad of the palm offers support to purchase when flipping.

Forge On!

With a wide selection of high-quality stock worthy of your artistry, Admiral Steel has you covered. Whether you need stainless, high carbon, low carbon, alloy, tool steels, precision ground stainless, nickel, titanium, or Damascus. From bar sizes to full sheets or plates ranging from 1/32" to 1/2".

Small quantities are always welcome! Visit our website at www.admiralsteel.com, call us at 800-323-7055, or email us at sales@admiralsteel.com to place your order today.

Admiral™ STEEL
Admiralsteel.com

Knives Done Right.®

GIANT MOUSE

GIANTMOUSE.COM

BRADFORD
USA
NEW!
ELMAX
GUARDIAN3.5
BACK IN STOCK!
GUARDIAN3.5
WWW.BRADFORDKNIVES.COM

The 0990 is small but don't tell its 3.25-inch blade. It made quick work of slicing through paracord and 3/8-inch rappelling rope. Check out the clean, surgical cuts. That's some mighty fine slicing!

Not the fastest blade in the test stable due to its sheer weight, the Khopesh makes up for it by tackling larger chores such as lopping off quarter-inch slices of 2-inch-diameter summer sausage.

"THE FLIPPER TAB IS SMALL, SO IT HELPS TO PRACTICE FLIPPING IT TO BECOME TOTALLY FAMILIAR WITH ITS LOCATION AND ACTION."

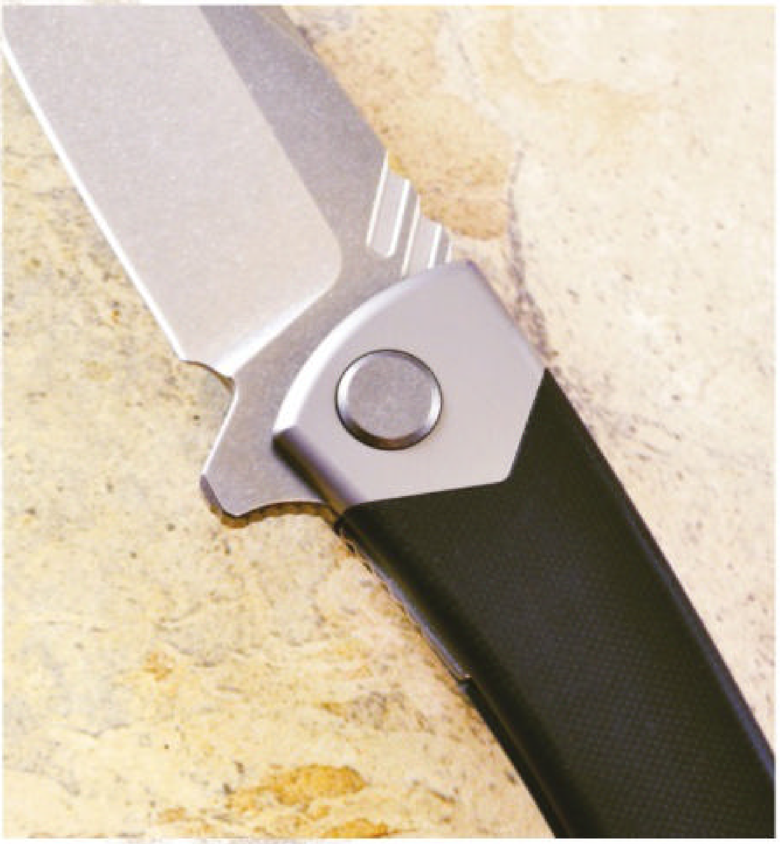
all in all, it works. The blade engages exclusively by the flipper tab—even the latter is skeletonized—and swings out effortlessly on a ball-bearing pivot. Out back is a bead-blasted, tip-up pocket clip and there's a lanyard hole and glass breaker in the butt.

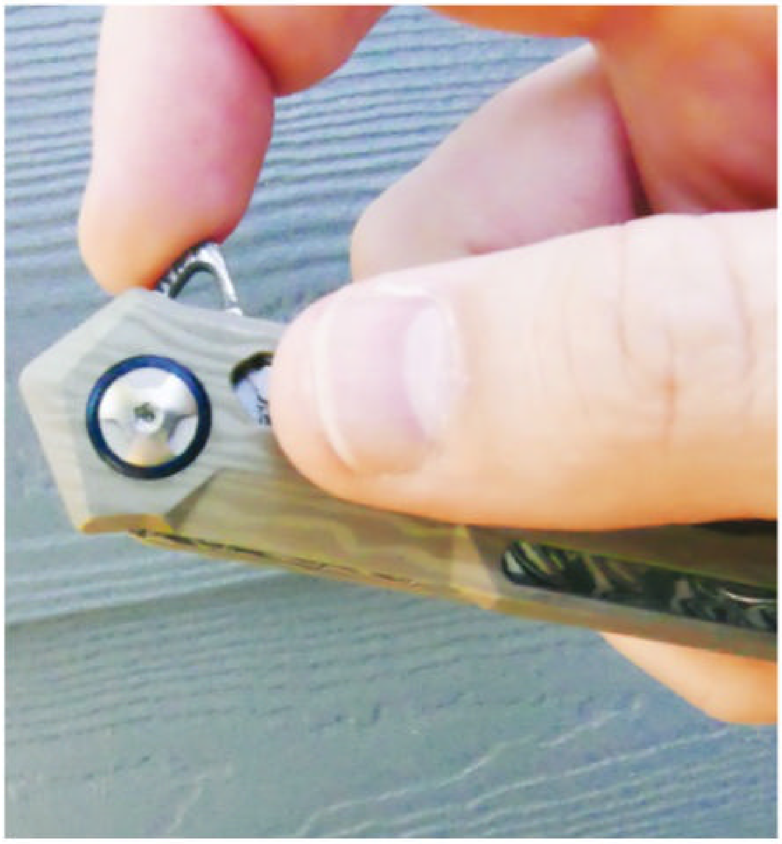
Thanks in no small part to its ultra-slim profile and light weight, the knife is a speed demon. With little drag on its ball-bearing pivot, the blade literally flies out when flipped. I found the flipper tab easily accessible and the exposed framelock makes it easy to reload. The slim profile makes it

Blacksmithsupply
MODERN TOOLS FOR THE MODERN BLACKSMITH
SJ ENGINEERING
GRINDERS
UNPARALLELED QUALITY AND FUNCTION
Made in Australia
DOWNLOAD OUR FREE CATALOG
SCAN ME
804-530-0290
WWW.BLACKSMITHSUPPLY.COM

MCUSTA®
Made in Japan
Mcustausa.com
US Distributor - Dealer Inquiries Welcome

The Khopesh's flipper tab serves as a very healthy finger guard when the blade is deployed. You can also pinch 'n pull the blade open using the three diagonal grooves on the rear spine area.





The Ghost's nice-sized flipper tab is gimped to further enhance index fingertip control. The problem with thin frames is the scarcity of grip space for the thumb and remaining fingers. Overcome this by practicing gripping and flipping to familiarize yourself with the knife.

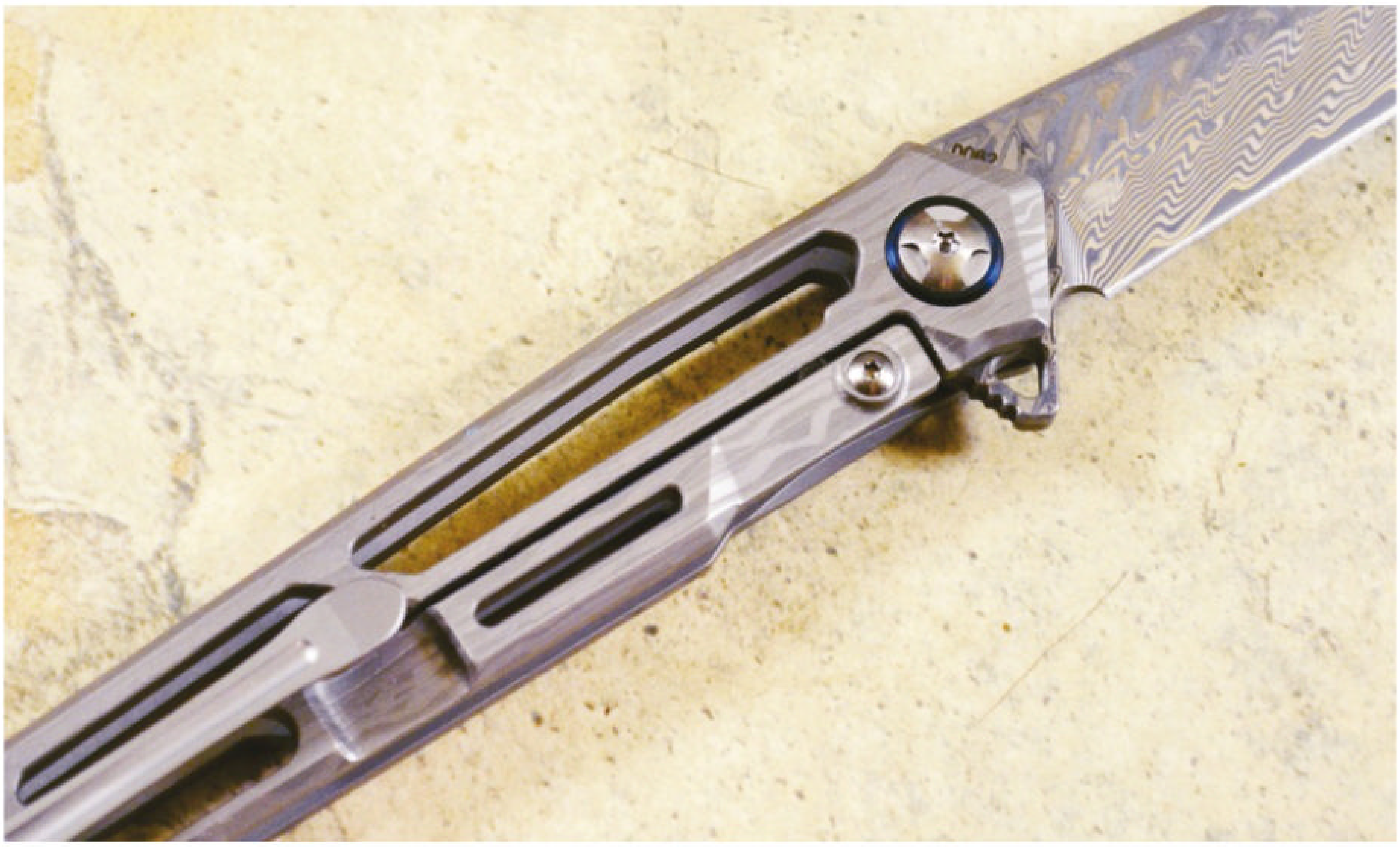
harder to grip than a wider model but, as with any knife, practice and familiarity makes perfect. You can't knock its looks, either. There's something about damascus that just warms the soul.

Most knives this slender typically excel at jobs like self-defense and melon testing. That said, the tip extends the blade's slicing ability beyond the standard symmetrical stiletto. I tested the blade by taking off strips of suede and was surprised at how well it performed for such a narrow pattern. I also gauged its penetrating prowess on a cantaloupe and it easily sank to the integral guard with every stab. The Ghost is not a working knife per se but its utility may surprise you.

For the contact information for the knives in the story, see "Where To Get 'Em" on page 47.

For the latest knives, knife news, trends, and more, visit ***blademag.com,*** BLADE®*'s popular Instagram page* ***@blade_magazine****, and on* ***Facebook*** *and* ***Twitter****.*

BLADE



The Ghost has one of the slimmer framelocks you'll see—in a skeletonized handle no less. Note the way CobraTec mimicked the damascus blade pattern on the handle by etching the titanium with similar styling.

WHERE TO GET 'EM

The contestants—plus one of the event's sponsors, Pro-Tech's Dave Wattenberg (front row, left)—celebrate another successful West Coast Flipping Championship at BLADE Show West (pgs. 32 and 60). (Squid Industries image)

EDC TO THE RESCUE P. 12
SOG Knives, Dept. BL1, 6521 212th St. SW, Lynnwood, WA 98036-7411 888-405-6433 sogsales@sogknives.com, www.sogknives.com; Kershaw, c/o Kai USA Ltd., attn: D. Aiello, Dept. BL1, 18600 SW Teton Ave., Tualatin, OR 97062 800-325-2891 daiello@kai-usa.com, www.ztknives.com; Utica, attn: R. Rae, Dept. BL1, 820 Noyes St., Utica, NY 13502 rrae@uticacutlery.com, uticausa.com; Victorinox Swiss Army, Inc., attn: K. Oakes, Dept. BL1, 7 Victoria Dr., Monroe, CT 06468 203-929-6391 swissarmy.com, Kristin.oakes@swissarmy.com

COOL CARRY MODES P. 24
A.G. Russell Knives, attn: J. Broce, Dept. BL1, 2900 S. 26th St., Rogers, AR 72758 agrussell.com; Big Idea Design, Dept. BL1, 3712 Ringgold Rd. #136, Chattanooga, TN 37412 bigidesign.com; Reiff Knives, reiffknives.com; TOPS Knives, Dept. BL1, 3415 E. 109 N., Idaho Falls, ID 83401 208-542-0113 info@topsknives.com, www.topsknives.com; UltiClip, ulticlip.com

KNIFE LANDSLIDE IN UTAH P. 32
Francesca Ritchie, tetonleather.com; Will Stelter, will@willstelterbladesmith.com

FAST FLIPPER FEST P. 40
Bladerunners Systems, bladerunnerssystems.com; CobraTec, Dept. BL1, 411 W. Morgan, Meridian, TX 76665 254-435-3040 eddie@cobratecknives.com, cobratechknives.com; Zero Tolerance, c/o Kai USA Ltd., attn: D. Aiello, Dept. BL1, 18600 SW Teton Ave., Tualatin, OR 97062 800-325-2891 daiello@kai-usa.com, www.ztknives.com

COMPACT OF CUT P. 48
Boker Plus, c/o Boker USA, attn: C. Fisher, Dept. BL1, 1550 Balsam St., Lakewood, CO 80214 800-835-6433 fax 303-586-6022 sales@bokerusa.com, www.bokerusa.com; CRKT, attn: D. Flagg, Dept. BL1, 18348 SW 126th Place, Tualatin, OR 97062 800-891-3100 info@crkt.com, www.crkt.com; GiantMouse, attn.: Jim Wirth, Dept. BL1, POB 7088, Corte Madera, CA 94976 415-854-7255 giantmouse.com, info@giantmouse.com; Spyderco, attn: J. Pardo and/or J. Coffing, Dept. BL1, 820 Spyderco Way, Golden, CO 80403 800-525-7770 spyderco.com, sfo@spyderco.com

BEST OF BLADE SHOW WEST P. 60
CRKT, attn: D. Flagg, Dept. BL1, 18348 SW 126th Place, Tualatin, OR 97062 800-891-3100 info@crkt.com, www.crkt.com; Corey Dunlap, corey@coreydunlap.com; Jim Dunlap, dunlapknives@gmail.com or ddunlapg@gmail.com; GiantMouse, attn.: Jim Wirth, Dept. BL1, POB 7088, Corte Madera, CA 94976 415-854-7255 giantmouse.com, info@giantmouse.com; Seth Lopez, silopez98@yahoo.com; Maniago Knife Makers (MKM), www.mkm.it/en/; Evan Nicolaides, evan@esnyx.com; Jared Oeser, jared@joeserknives.com; Poikoloblade, poikiloblade@gmail.com; William Porto, w.porto.cuteleiro@gmail.com; Pro-Tech Knives, attn: D. Wattenberg, Dept. BL1, 17115 Alburtis Ave., Artesia, CA 90701-2616 562-860-0678 protechknives.com, service@protechknives.com; Pearce Richardson, pearce.richardson@icarusforge.com, icarusforge.com; James Rodebaugh, jlrodebaugh@gmail.com; Princeton Wong, create@princecustoms.com

*For the latest knives, knife news, trends and more, visit **blademag.com**, BLADE®'s popular **Instagram** page **@blade_magazine**, and on **Facebook** and **Twitter**.*

CONSIGN WITH
ARIZONA
CUSTOM KNIVES
AND TURN YOUR
COLLECTION INTO CASH!

IT'S AS EASY AS THIS:

CAREFULLY BOX AND SHIP YOUR KNIVES TO US.

WE DO THE PRICING RESEARCH, WRITE DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS, AND PHOTOGRAPH EACH KNIFE.

MONITOR YOUR LISTINGS AND MONTHLY PAYOUTS THROUGH YOUR OWN PRIVATE ACCOUNT.

RECEIVE SCHEDULED PAYOUTS AS YOUR KNIVES SELL.

ARIZONA
CUSTOM KNIVES
WWW.ARIZONACUSTOMKNIVES.COM
SHARPTALK@ARIZONACUSTOMKNIVES.COM
1-904-826-4178

BY **ABE ELIAS** BLADE® CORRESPONDENT

>> IMAGES BY THE AUTHOR

COMPACT OF CUT

There's no knife job too small for a compact cutter

There are some jobs you don't need a big knife for—just a good sharp one like the Boker Plus DW-1. Removing the dried caulking from a previously used tube is such a task. In fact, the DW-1 might be a safer edge than most given you really can't over cut with it.

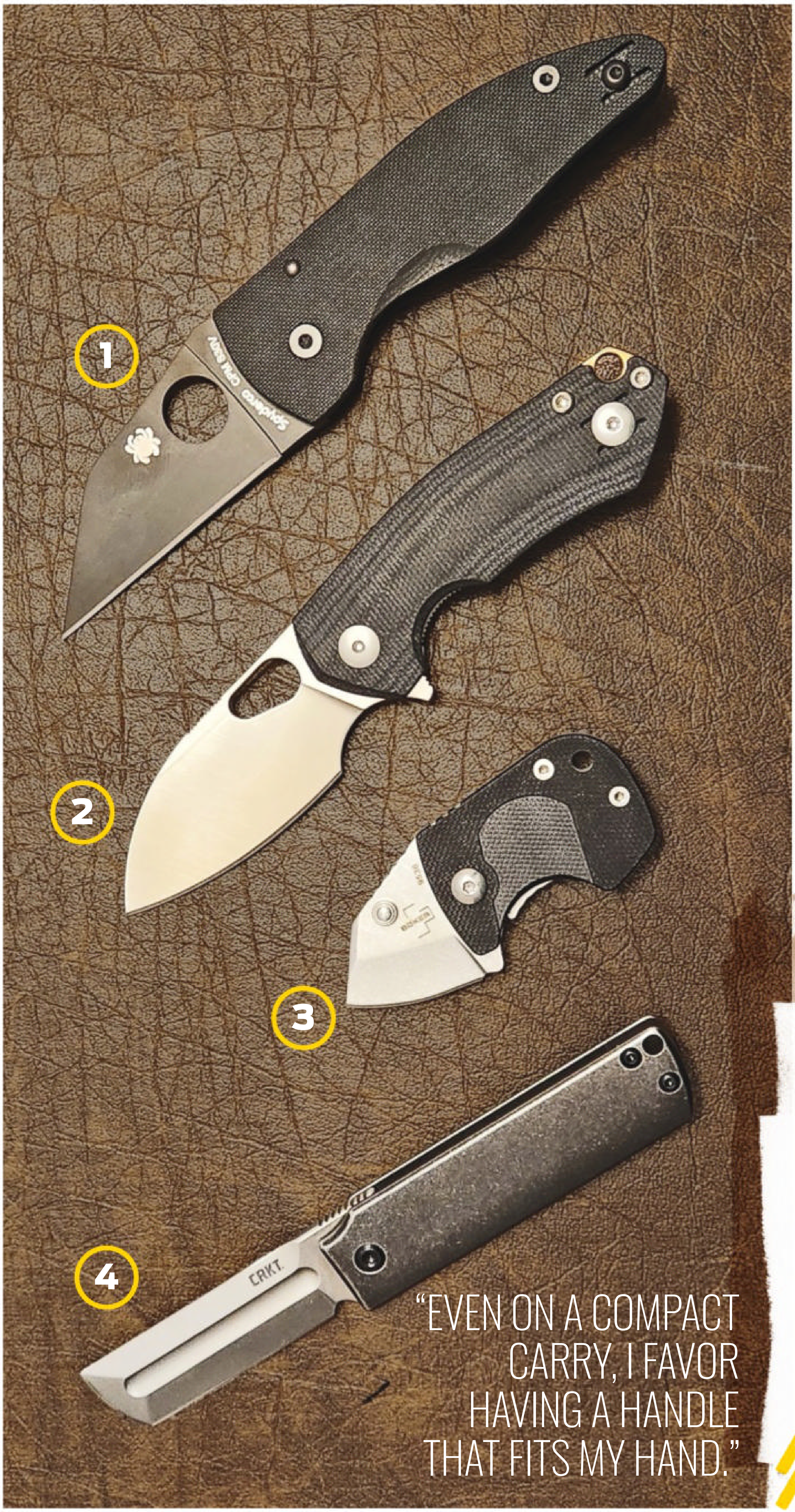
Folders come in all sizes and shapes. Over the years, I have carried every size from compact and handy to needing to visit my chiropractor at the end of the day. I carry a Spyderco Para Military most often and other times I carry a Benchmade Griptilian. I can tell you that when I take out the Spyderco I get more comments on the size of the knife than the Griptilian.

I used to be a compact knife carrier and one of my favorites was the SOG Twitch II. I also favored two Kershaw Chives. To be fair, outside of some exceptions a compact carry did pretty much the majority of work I needed in an average day. I moved to the Spyderco only for the unexpected chores.

This time the focus is on smaller carries, the kind of carry a person in my age range would choose because his work is selling life insurance and he doesn't need a blade that opens a person's eyes as wide as a harvest moon. I put aside my regular carries for a number of weeks and downsized to bring you my thoughts on four factory compact carries.

URBAN EDC

The first thing that strikes you about the CRKT MinimalX is how streamlined and compact it is. As



> "EVEN ON A COMPACT CARRY, I FAVOR HAVING A HANDLE THAT FITS MY HAND."

1. SPYDERCO MICROJIMBO

OVERALL LENGTH: 6.22"
BLADE LENGTH: 2.45"
CLOSED LENGTH: 3.8"
STAINLESS BLADE STEEL: CPM S30V
SCALE MATERIAL: G-10
LOCKING SYSTEM: Compression Lock
POCKET CLIP: Ambidextrous, tip up
OPENING SYSTEM: Thumb hole
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: United States
MSRP: $245

2. GIANTMOUSE ACE RIV LL

OVERALL LENGTH: 5.75"
BLADE LENGTH: 2.44"
CLOSED LENGTH: 3.375"
STAINLESS BLADE STEEL: CPM MagnaCut
SCALE MATERIAL: Double black canvas Micarta®
LOCKING SYSTEM: Linerlock
POCKET CLIP: Ambidextrous, tip up
OPENING SYSTEM: Thumb hole
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Italy
MSRP: $276

3. BOKER PLUS DW-1

OVERALL LENGTH: 2.8"
BLADE LENGTH: 1.06"
CLOSED LENGTH: 1.6"
STAINLESS BLADE STEEL: AUS-8
SCALE MATERIAL: Zytel/stainless steel
LOCKING SYSTEM: Framelock
POCKET CLIP: Right hand, tip up
OPENING SYSTEM: Thumb stud
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: China
MSRP: $39.99

4. CRKT MINIMALX FRAME LOCK

OVERALL LENGTH: 5.3"
BLADE LENGTH: 2.19"
CLOSED LENGTH: 3.2"
STAINLESS BLADE STEEL: 12C27
SCALE MATERIAL: Stainless steel
LOCKING SYSTEM: Framelock
POCKET CLIP: Right side, low profile
OPENING SYSTEM: Flipper
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: China
MSRP: $60

Keen compact cutters, from top: Spyderco MicroJimbo, GiantMouse Ace Riv LL, Boker Plus DW-1 and CRKT MinimalX.

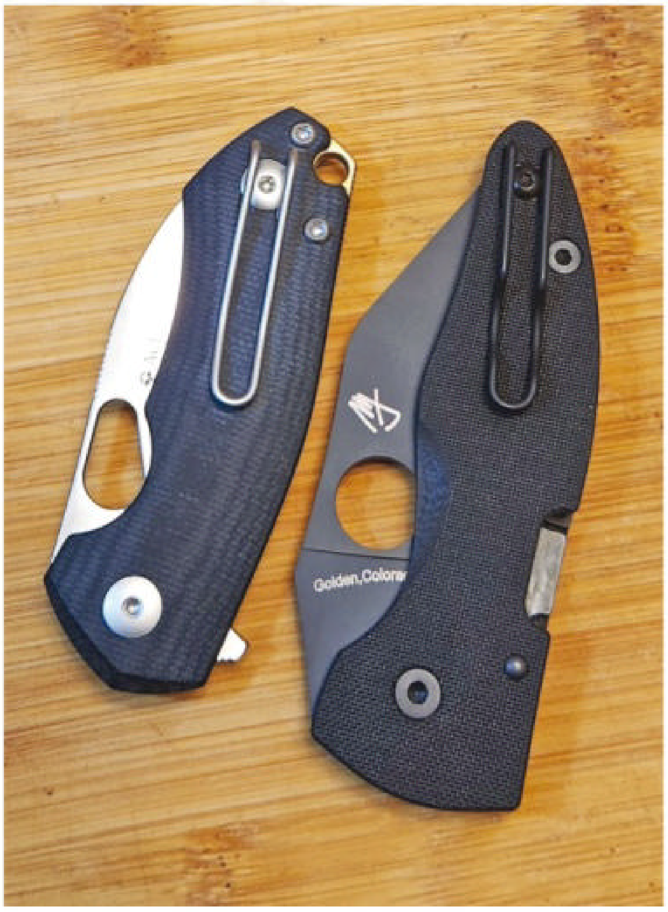
VZ GRIPS®
CUSTOM GUN GRIPS

G10
COMPOSITE DAGGERS

FOR A SPECIAL DISCOUNT
USE THE QR CODE OR VIST

VZGRIPS.COM/BLADE

©2024 VZ, INC. • 3616 Jackson Bluff Road
Tallahassee, FL 32304 • 850-422-1911.

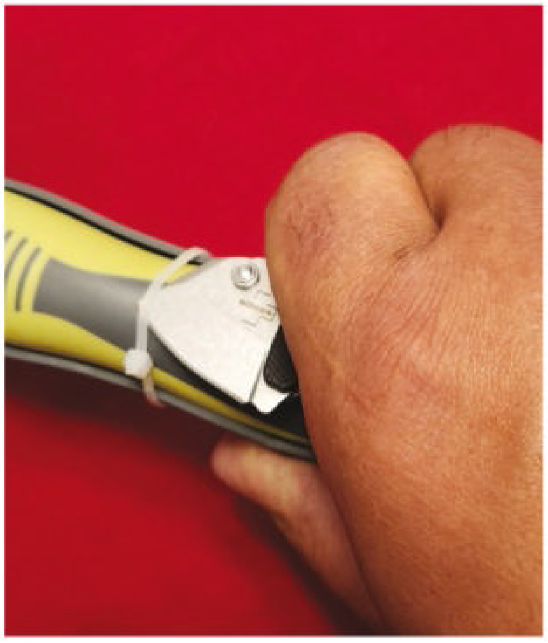


Consider two different styles of wire pocket clips. The lip on the clip of the GiantMouse (left) is tighter to the scale, with a slight lift. The Spyderco (right) lifts the lip a bit to aid in trapping the pocket rim.

The fuller on the CRKT blade gives your index finger a nice purchase point for a controlled push cut while using a pinch grip.

> "IF YOU TRIED SPREADING PEANUT BUTTER WITH IT TO MAKE A SANDWICH FOR LUNCH, YOU WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO EAT THE SAME DAY."

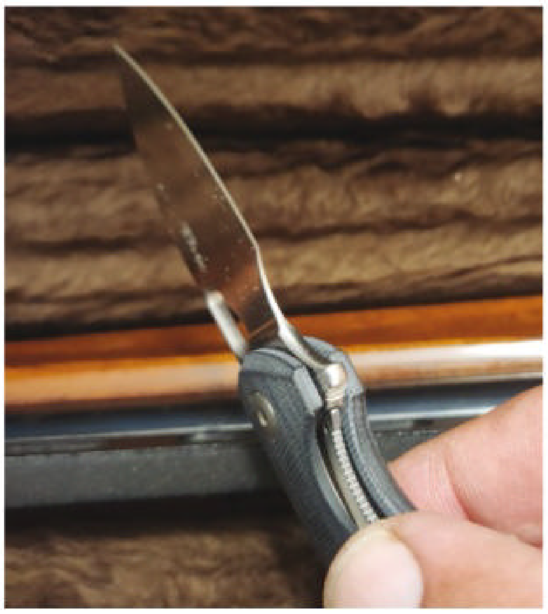
The MicroJimbo blade has a very aggressive yet highly controllable tip. Only the slightest bit of pressure can puncture several materials.



The DW-1 is great for those small jobs that you don't want to risk a visit to the dentist on. Face it, everyday life doesn't normally have you felling a mighty oak with your pocketknife.

probably will be the case with all four test knives, people with big hands might find them a bit difficult to use, a price you pay for the knives being compact and lighter.

To start, I have an issue with the handle finish. The stainless steel scales are a bit too slick. I find my thumb lacks purchase while opening the blade. To deploy the blade you use a flipper that sits even with the spine of the scales. CRKT provides a trim pocket clip mounted on a standoff platform. When closed, the knife is about the size of a pack of chewing gum.



All the non-blade edges that could be potential hot spots on the GiantMouse have been smoothed over. On a compact knife it is that much more important to be aware of any unnecessary sharp areas in the design.

YOU'VE GOT THE VISION

Masecraft Supply Co. offers the world's largest line-up of natural and synthetic materials for knife handles, gun grips, pens, musical instrument inlays, pool cue inlays and endless other creative applications. Several of these materials are exclusive to us.

Our customers include some of the largest and well known major manufacturers and artisans in the world.

Our line-up of natural materials includes white Mother of Pearl, Black Lip Pearl, Gold Lip Pearl, Paua, Green Abalone and many types of Laminated Shell Veneers (LVS) plus custom shell inlays, India Stag, Bone, Horn and Exotic Woods.

Our decorative synthetic materials include Alternative Ivory and many other decorative Polyester and Acrylic materials in sheet, rod and bar form. We also offer a full line of Reconstituted Stone slabs and blocks. We are adding new products every year. We also offer a wide variety of Rigid Composite Laminates in Canvas, Linen and Paper Micarta, G-10's and Carbon Fiber.

Masecraft supply co. specializes in large manufacture orders and the individual needs of artisans and hobbyist alike.

WE'VE GOT YOUR MATERIALS

Visit our new E-commerce store for full product selection with pictures

MASECRAFT SUPPLY COMPANY
Meriden, CT USA
www.masecraftsupply.com
1-800-682-5489

MSC
Since 1980

MAKER MATERIAL SUPPLY

- Unique selection of natural and synthetic materials for makers
- Over 99% of orders ship within 1 business day
- Earn rewards with our MakerBucks VIP loyalty program
- Small family business with a 100% satisfaction guarantee

@MakerMaterialSupply

Granbury, TX 682-205-1030
info@makermaterialsupply.com

MakerMaterialSupply.com

The CRKT's flipper is not proud of the back of the scales. According to the author, the tumble finish is a bit slick, though the finish color and smoothness accent the knife's trim, compact proportions.

"A KNIFE LIKE THIS COULD SERVE SOMEONE THE BETTER PART OF A LIFETIME."

CRKT uses a pseudo chisel shape for the blade profile. It has a straight primary edge with a rounded chisel style tip. The blade works great for an urban EDC. As a handyman I used it several weeks for some fine trimming on door lock cuts in door frames, along with using it to scrape. Having a fuller on such a small blade adds character. It also provides a purchase point for a pinch hold.

The Darriel Caston design was hair popping sharp right out of the box. Lock up is solid as a vault. For a small carry, this is a well-built and excellent compact design. A knife like this could serve someone the better part of a lifetime.

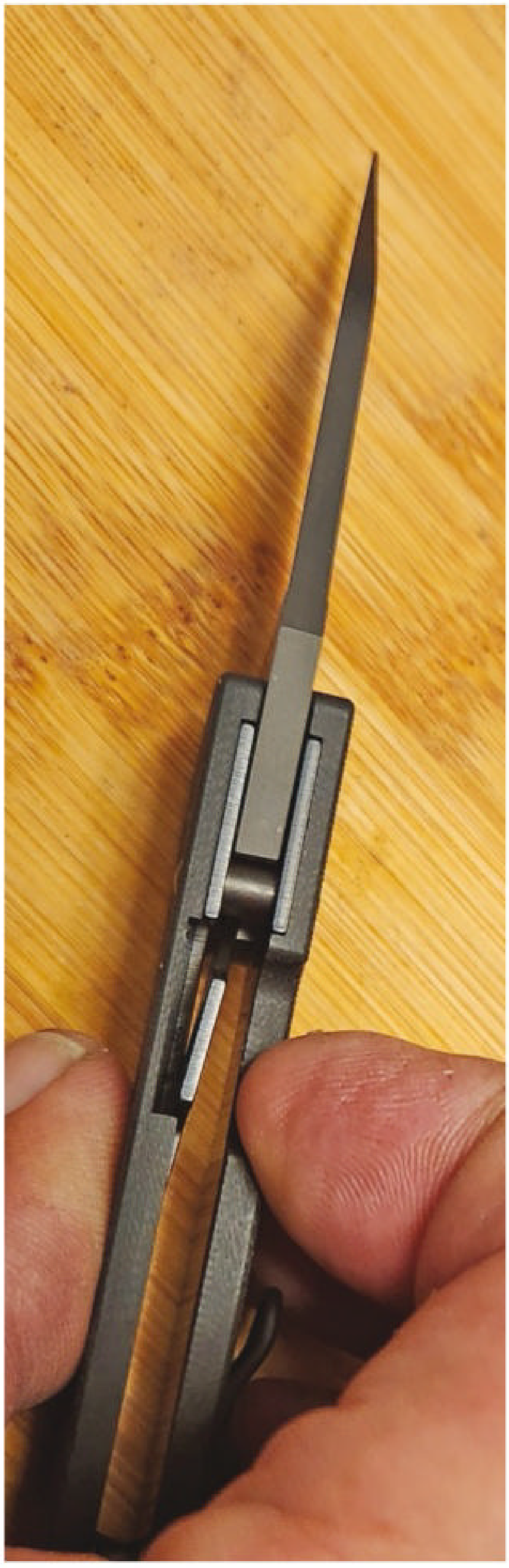
Boker provides a great little storage case with the DW-1. "Good EDC cases are hard to find, and expensive," the author wrote. "I was excited about the case as much as the knife."

MICRO CUTTER

I would have to drop the term compact and switch it to micro for the Boker Plus DW-1. Designed by Chad Los Banos, the smallest of the review knives comes with a solid pocket clip and framelock. One scale is stainless steel and the other is Zytel. The knife has Chad's trademark design written all over it.

This is a minimalist carry. It is a great little blade for opening Amazon packages, cutting loose threads and string—basically all the little chores. Bigger jobs are not in the DW-1 domain. If you tried spreading peanut butter with it to make a sandwich for lunch, you would not be able to eat the same day. Don't get me wrong, the knife is made

The GiantMouse just barely falls into a compact size for the author. It offers two opening options: blade hole and flipper.



"I like Spyderco's Compression lock," the author noted. "The system certainly screams innovation. However, it is not as agile operating one handed as other systems."

well and would be great for someone who worked retail stocking shelves and the like. As for fighting off a zombie horde, you could sharpen a small stick with it. It would fit someone who needs an available edge but wants a subtle carry. If I worked retail, I would use it as a companion edge to my full-size model so I would not accidently shred

To show all the ways we can do **fancy inlays**, this ad would have to be a **mile wide**.

Build your own: olamiccutlery.com
Monthly drops: theolamictable.com

OLAMIC CUSTOM

LARGEST ALL CUSTOM KNIFE SHOW IN TEXAS

TEXAS SELECT
CUSTOM CUTLERY EVENT

SAT & SUN
April
5&6
2025

AUSTIN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
Bellville Tx

TexasSelectEvent.com

SPONSORED IN PART BY | PHENIX KNIVES JANTZ BALLISTIC DUMMY LAB TEXAS KNIFEMAKERS GUILD

NORTH MOUNTAIN BLADE

Unique three-layer steel forging technique

https://northmountainblade.com/

WHITE RIVER KNIFE & TOOL®

FIRECRAFT®
MODEL: WRFC5

whiteriverknives.com

OREGON KNIFE COLLECTORS

48th Annual
OREGON KNIFE SHOW
APRIL 12th-13th 2025
Lane Events Center - 796 W. 13th Ave. Eugene, OR

BUY ★ SELL ★ TRADE

Largest Cutlery Show East or West of the Mississippi River
350 TABLES

Informative
Educational
Fun for Everyone
Live Demonstrations

Fri. April 11th 8am-9am set-up. 9am-5pm open ONLY to table-holders and members of OKCA. Join on our website!

Sat. April 12th 7am-8am set-up. 8am-5pm open to the public.

Sun. April 13th 8am-9am set-up. 9am-3pm open to the public.

OREGON KNIFE COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION
www.oregonknifecollectors.com
info@oregonknifecollectors.com
PO BOX 2091, Eugene, OR 97402
(541) 972-3393

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE OKCA

the contents of the box—not that I ever did (hint, hint).

STYLISH COMPACT

There is nary a hot spot on the Ace Riv LL from GiantMouse. The bearings make the blade simply pop open via a flipper or thumb hole. Housing a linerlock, the textured Micarta® handle provides a good surface for a secure grip. The blade has a tip down profile, making it good for utility cuts.

GiantMouse provides a wire-style reversible pocket clip. I dislike wire pocket clips. Over the years, I have found them to be the least sturdy and they often get bent. The knife is a great compact carry with some style and not so small as to be heavily limited.

SOLID CARRY

The Spyderco MicroJimbo is based on the original Yojimbo design named after a Japanese Samurai movie character. First off, the MicroJimbo borders on midsize. The handle size has always been a bit larger in proportion on the Spyderco Yojimbo line. Even on a compact carry, I favor having a handle that fits my hand. Control is key to enjoying any knife.

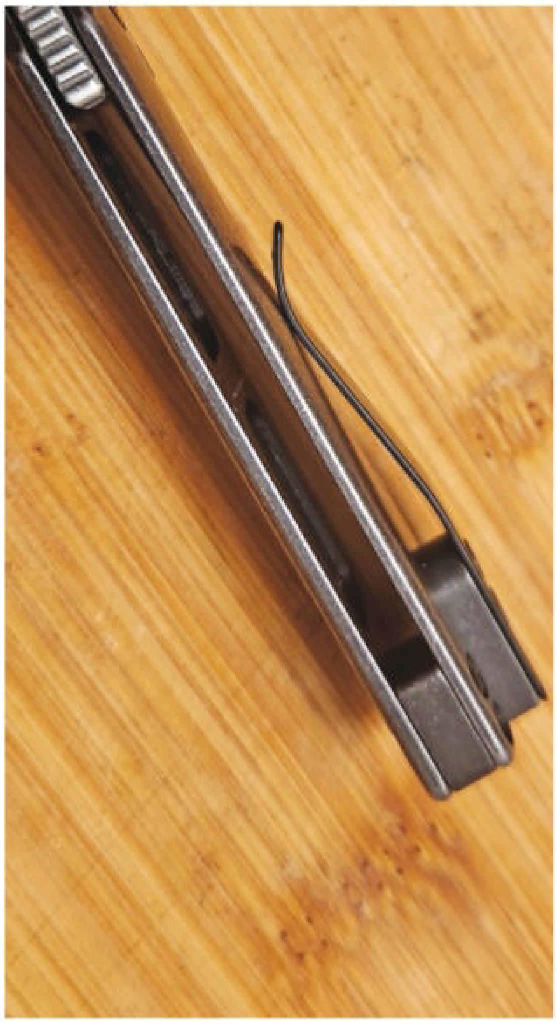
The MicroJimbo uses a utility style blade with a straight edge and aggressive tip. A stylized spine profile really sets the blade off. Spyderco uses the Compression blade-lock system. The textured scales are black G-10 with a wire pocket clip. The shapes of Spyderco's clips are more effective for attaching to a variety of pocket styles than most, though the fact that it's in the wire style gives it the same issues as mentioned with the GiantMouse. Due to its distinctive look, the MicroJimbo might not be everyone's cup of tea. It is a solid carry with an unusual style and loads of function.

EDC KIT

Compact cutters will do the majority of most common daily knife tasks. Add a little creativity and you can stretch their function sometimes.

My EDC kit consists of my wallet, keys, pen, butane lighter, flashlight, bandana and my knife. That sounds like a lot, and it is. There are times when I add to the kit depending on

> “AS FOR FIGHTING OFF A ZOMBIE HORDE, YOU COULD SHARPEN A SMALL STICK WITH IT.”



The CRKT has a standoff to mount the pocket clip. It has its own style this way but also serves to take tension off the clip.

what I’m doing. No doubt, it obviously increases weight and bulk. Carrying a large kit means that I buy cargo pants only for daily wear. If there is anything I can do to save space and weight, I start by carry more compact versions of my gear. Obviously, my knife would be a start.

For the contact information for the knives in the story, see “Where To Get ’Em” on page 47.

For the latest knives, knife news, trends, and more, visit ***blademag.com,*** BLADE®’s *popular Instagram page* ***@blade_magazine****, and on* ***Facebook*** *and* ***Twitter***

Complete Blacksmithing - Knife Making Tools Source

Blade Steels - Knife Scales - Tongs

Hammers - Anvils - Forges

Kirinite
juma
Raffir®
BONE & HORN
Knife Handle Fasteners
G10 Composites
BLACKSMITHS DEPOT.com
Call 828-667-8868

THE AMERICAN BLADESMITH SOCIETY

Preserving the art of the forged blade since 1976

ABS Master Smith James Rodebaugh

What does your future hold? Bladesmithing?

Courses for beginners to advanced smiths are available at ABS sanctioned schools and demonstrations are given at weekend seminars around the country and abroad. Check us out!

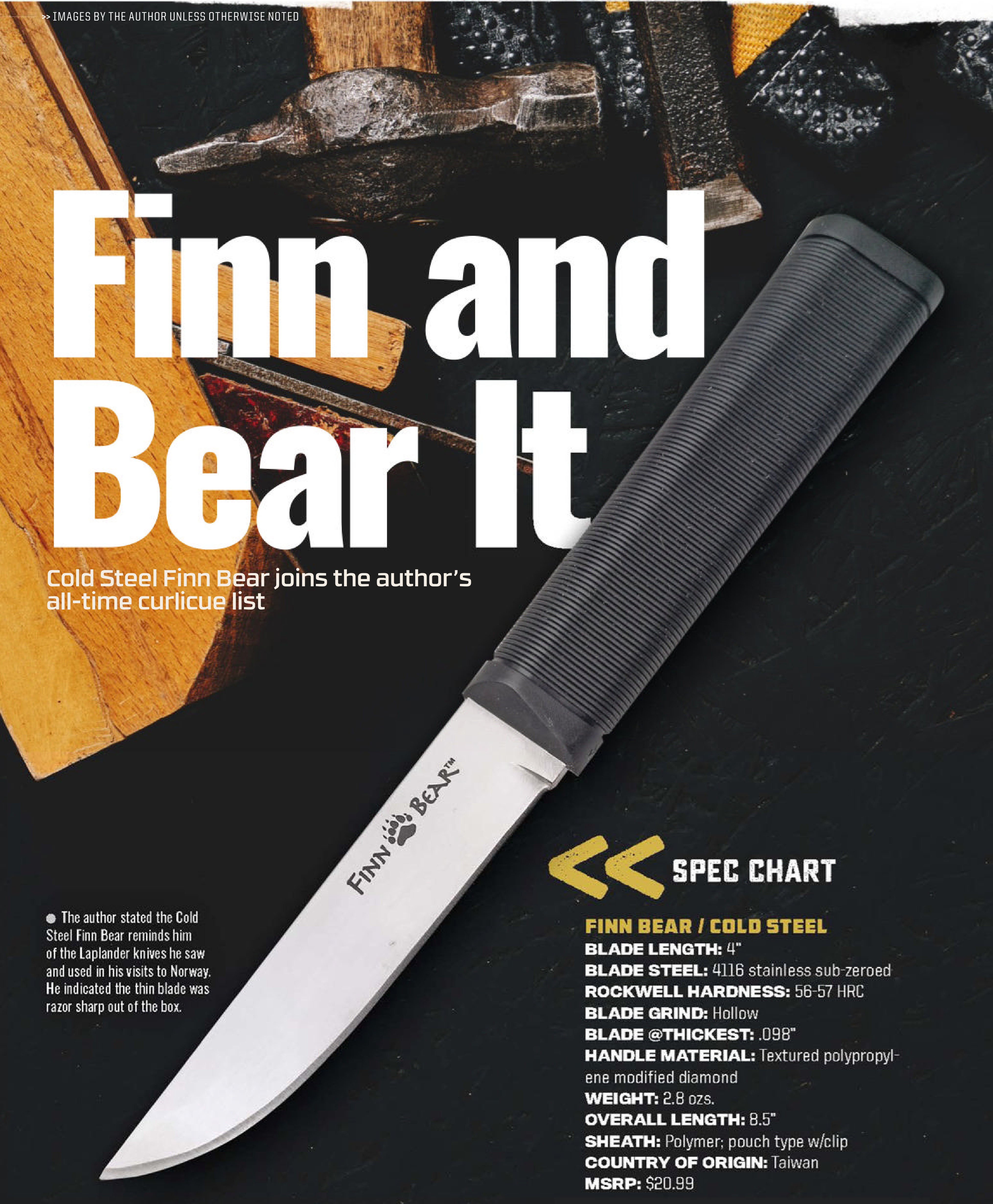
www.americanbladesmith.com (click on Schools, school name)
Or call Cindy Sheely at 419-832-0400

BY **MSG KIM BREED** 5TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP (RETIRED)

>> IMAGES BY THE AUTHOR UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

Finn and Bear It

Cold Steel Finn Bear joins the author's all-time curlicue list



● The author stated the Cold Steel Finn Bear reminds him of the Laplander knives he saw and used in his visits to Norway. He indicated the thin blade was razor sharp out of the box.

SPEC CHART

FINN BEAR / COLD STEEL

BLADE LENGTH: 4"

BLADE STEEL: 4116 stainless sub-zeroed

ROCKWELL HARDNESS: 56-57 HRC

BLADE GRIND: Hollow

BLADE @THICKEST: .098"

HANDLE MATERIAL: Textured polypropylene modified diamond

WEIGHT: 2.8 ozs.

OVERALL LENGTH: 8.5"

SHEATH: Polymer; pouch type w/clip

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Taiwan

MSRP: $20.99

“IT WORKED FASTER WITH A PUSH CUT RATHER THAN A PULL CUT.”

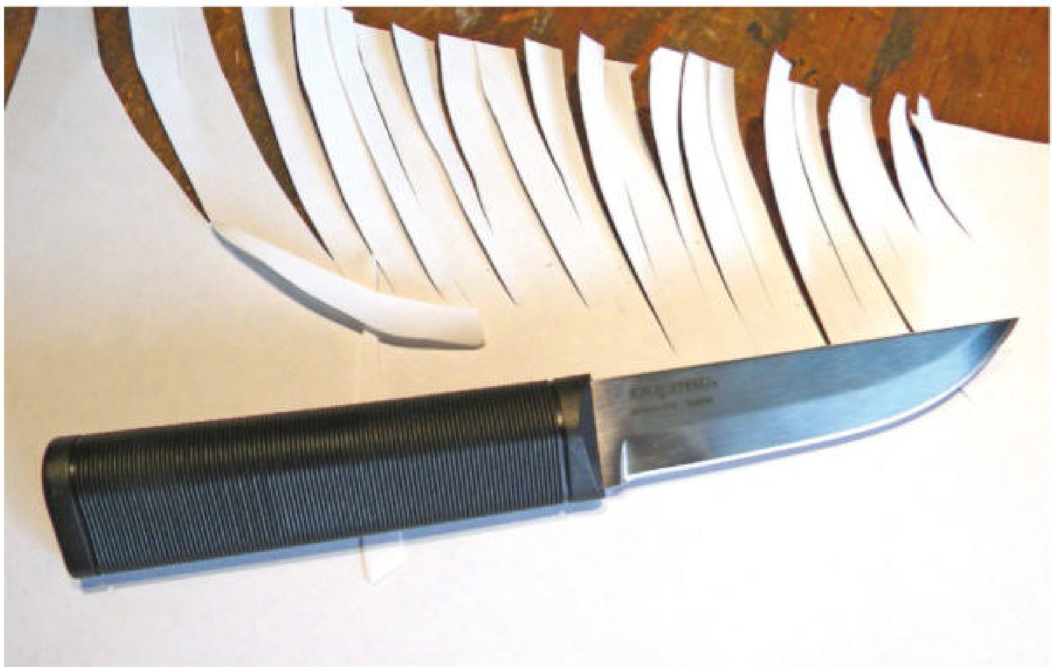
It’s nice to see a lightweight knife that can fill a multiple range of uses. While attending Norway’s ski school, I was introduced to the Laplander style of knife. Very light and super sharp, it is used for most every cutting chore. The Cold Steel Finn Bear reminds me of such knives. And don’t let the thin blade fool you, it’s a sturdy cutting instrument.

Slicing 20-pound bond paper checked the new edge for sharpness. It sliced quickly and smoothly. I had to move my fingers quickly so I didn’t nick myself. It was a great factory edge to start off with.

Double-walled cardboard was next on the docket. Again, the Finn Bear was very smooth in its slices. It worked faster with a push cut rather than a pull cut. The knife made full-blade-length slices. The edge was very aggressive. The tear-drop handle shape designed by Tapio Wirkkala provided great control.

I fetched a piece of scrap 8-ounce leather to slice next. The material offered no resistance to the super-sharp blade. I could hear the edge biting into the leather. It was hard to control the depth of cutting as the blade zipped straight to the bottom of the medium.

Using the other side of the leather strip, I did some skiving. The blade was very aggressive and cut as fast as I could move my fingers out of the way. It rendered smooth slices in the animal skin with hardly any pressure. I could hear the leather crunching sound with each pass. The tear-drop handle was very controllable.



The author checked the new edge for sharpness on the copy paper and the blade sliced quickly and smoothly.

CAPTAIN CURLICUE

It was time to whittle a firestick from pine/fir wood. The Finn Bear produced the best curlicues I’ve seen in a long time—smooth wood cuts with multiple curls on each whittle. Performance at the task was excellent.

The Finn Bear quickly made 200 cuts in the half-inch sisal rope and was ready for more.

The thin blade lickety-split the 2x3 with no edge damage.

The Finn Bear produced the best curlicues the author's seen in a long time—smooth wood cuts with multiple curls on each whittle.

"THE TEAR-DROP HANDLE SHAPE DESIGNED BY TAPIO WIRKKALA PROVIDED GREAT CONTROL."

Next up: baton the knife into a 2x3. The thin blade split the wood in no time with no edge damage. Gripping the handle tighter to control the knife made the bottom of the tear drop seem too pointy for the shape of my hand—not uncomfortable, just harder to grip.

A sturdy integral clip attaches the synthetic pouch sheath to a vest, pack, etc.

> “IT WAS HARD TO CONTROL THE DEPTH OF CUTTING AS THE BLADE ZIPPED STRAIGHT TO THE BOTTOM OF THE LEATHER.”

Sheathed the Finn Bear makes a handsome package—and, at just a tad over 4 ounces, a lightweight one, too.

It was on to the half-inch sisal rope. The Finn Bear quickly crunched to 200 cuts and was ready for more. I had to change my grip to more of a sidewinder style. I couldn’t place my thumb on the spine because of the blade’s thinness. No matter how I held the knife, it cut the rope. The knife is very sharp indeed.

For the final test, it was back to the 20-pound bond paper. The Finn Bear sliced the medium just as quickly as the first time. I did have two tears in the paper but that was due to it being soggy. It rained the whole time I was testing.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I would make the bottom of the handle a tad wider for a better grip.

A SHOULD HAVE

The Finn Bear is a “should have” knife. It’s lightweight and cuts like the wind. It’s perfect for everything from camp chores up to chopping.

For more information, contact Cold Steel at coldsteel.com or @coldsteelknives Instagram/Facebook/YouTube/Twitter/X 877-269-8490 (the number for GSM, which owns Cold Steel).

For the latest knives, knife news trends and more, visit ***blademag.com****,* BLADE®’s *popular Instagram page* ***@blade_magazine****, and on* ***Facebook*** *and* ***Twitter***

LEATHER SUPPLIES!
Renia USA
Blade Atlanta
Booth #2315
slickbald@slickbald.com

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!
THREE WAYS TO READ!
PRINT ONLY, DIGITAL ONLY, OR PRINT+DIGITAL
NEW SUBSCRIBERS:
BladeMag.com/subscribe
TO RENEW:
BladeMag.com/renew

>> KNIFE IMAGES BY JOCELYN FRASIER

Best of BLADE Show West

The custom and factory knife award winners in Salt Lake City were an impressive lot

The custom and factory knife awards at BLADE Show West 2024 recognized some of the show's finest examples of the cutlery art. Illustrated on this and the following pages, the winners in the custom categories were: Best In Show and Best Fixed Blade: Pearce Richardson of Icarus Forge; Best Hunter: James Rodebaugh; Best Folder: Evan Nicolaides; Best Kitchen Knife: Corey Dunlap; Best of the Rest: Seth Lopez; Best Damascus: William Porto; Best Slip Joint: Jim Dunlap; Best M.A.C.K.: Princeton Wong; and Best M.A.C.K. Contender: Jared Oeser.

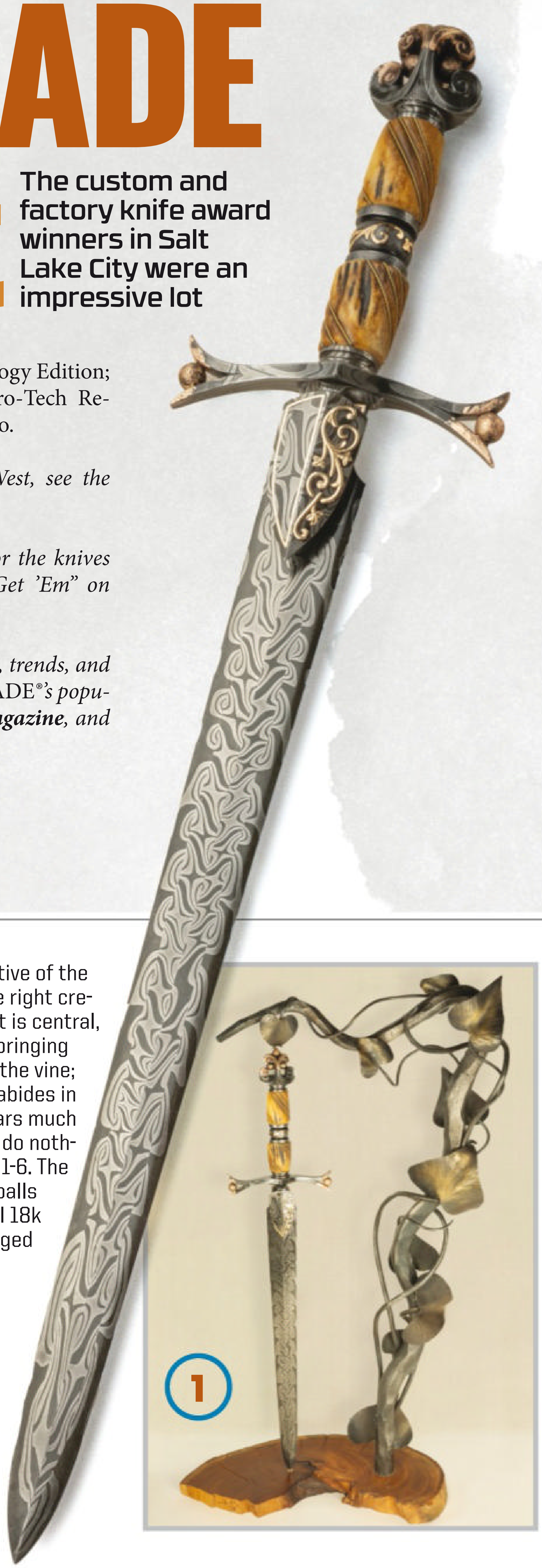
The winners in the factory categories were: Best In Show/Best Folder: Poikiloblade (PKB) Orca; Best Fixed Blade: Maniago Knife Makers Pocket Tango; Best Imported: CRKT Persian; Best EDC: GiantMouse Sonoma V2 Carryology Edition; and Best American Made: Pro-Tech Redencion Prototype Chaves Auto.

For more on BLADE Show West, see the story on page 32.

For the contact information for the knives in the story, see "Where To Get 'Em" on page 47.

For the latest knives, knife news, trends, and more, visit ***blademag.com,*** BLADE®*'s popular Instagram page* ***@blade_magazine****, and on* ***Facebook*** *and* ***Twitter.***

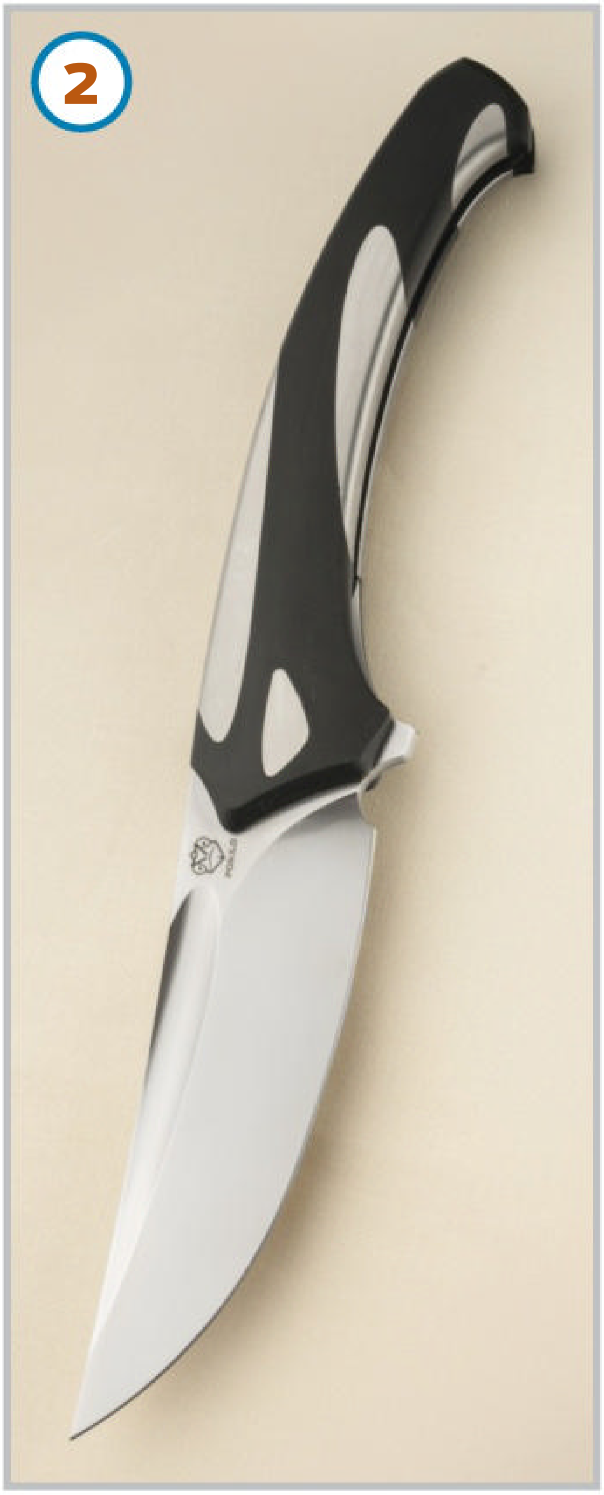
BLADE



1. CUSTOM BEST IN SHOW/ BEST FIXED BLADE:

Pearce Richardson

KNIFE NAME: Ampelos
PATTERN: Dagger
DESIGNER: Pearce Richardson
BLADE LENGTH: 14.75"
BLADE MATERIAL: 4-bar-twist damascus forged from 1084 carbon and 15N20 nickel-alloy steels
ROCKWELL HARDNESS: 58 HRC
BLADE GRIND: Flat w/convex edge
BLADE @THICKEST: .125"
BLADE PATTERN: Spear point
CONSTRUCTION: Through tang
HANDLE MATERIAL: Elk antler
WEIGHT: 16.5 ozs.
OVERALL LENGTH: 20.5"
KNIFE TO KNOW: The Greek word for vine, Ampelos was inspired by the icon of the "True Vine." The 12 leaves on the gold overlay symbolize the 12 apostles, while the five fruits of the vine (the golden balls) represent the wounds of Christ. The shield on the guard is also representative of the right and left hand of Christ, the right creating space and expanding what is central, the left being the chaotic vine, bringing change from the outside. "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."—John 15:5, 2, Corinthians 3:1-6. The inlay/overlay, twisted wire, and balls on the guard and pommel are all 18k gold. The knife comes with a forged vine magnetic stand.
MAKER'S PRICE FOR A SIMILAR PIECE: $14,000



2. FACTORY BEST IN SHOW/ BEST FOLDER:

Poikiloblade Orca-S Killer Whale

KNIFE TYPE: Flipper folder

BLADE LENGTH: 3.6"

BLADE STEEL: Bohler M398 stainless

ROCKWELL HARDNESS: 62 HRC

BLADE @THICKEST: .157"

BLADE FINISH: Pearlescent stonewash

HANDLE MATERIAL: Black/white titanium

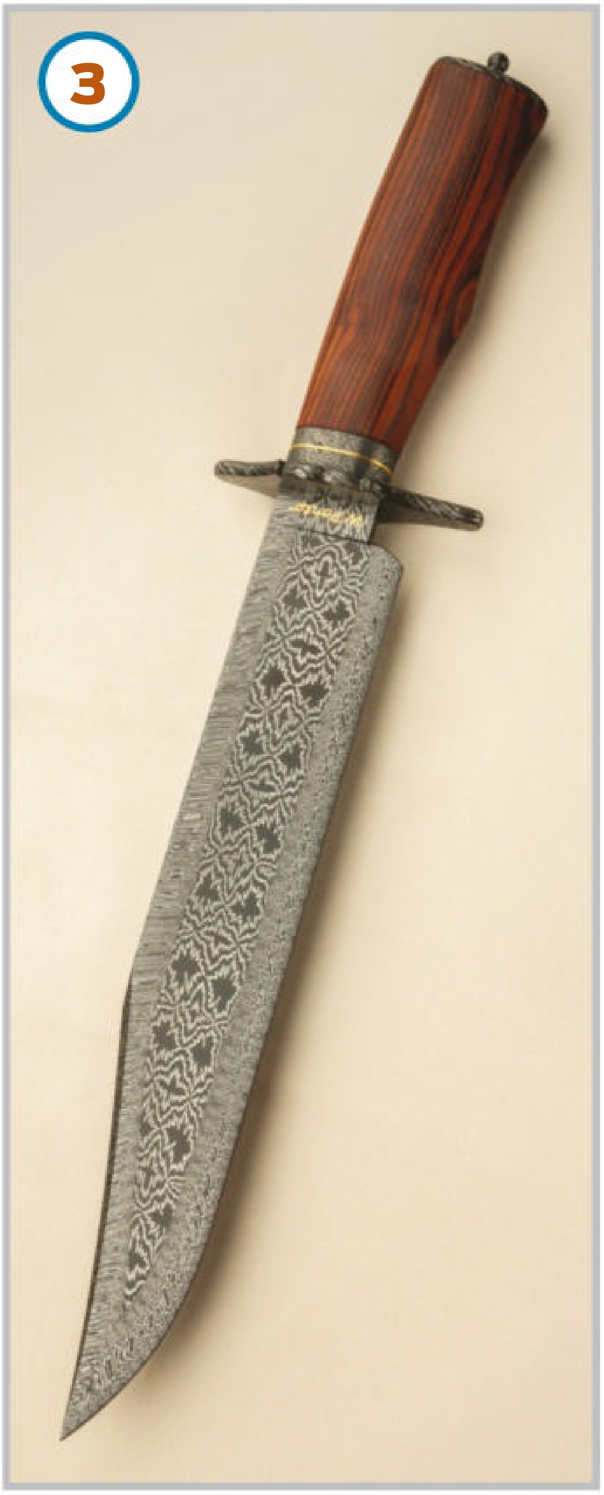
LOCK: Linerlock

KNIFE TO KNOW: The handle is of a two-piece construction; Poikiloblade also goes by the acronym of PKB

APPROXIMATE CLOSED LENGTH: 5"

MSRP: $450 (standard model)

AVAILABLE: Contact PKB for more information



3. CUSTOM BEST DAMASCUS:

William Porto

KNIFE NAME: Början

PATTERN: Bowie

APPROXIMATE BLADE LENGTH: 10"

BLADE MATERIAL: Explosion mosaic damascus w/twisted W's edges forged from 1084 carbon and 15N20 nickel alloy steels

BLADE GRIND: Flat

BLADE @THICKEST: .216"

BLADE PATTERN: Clip point

BLADE FINISH: Polished phosphate

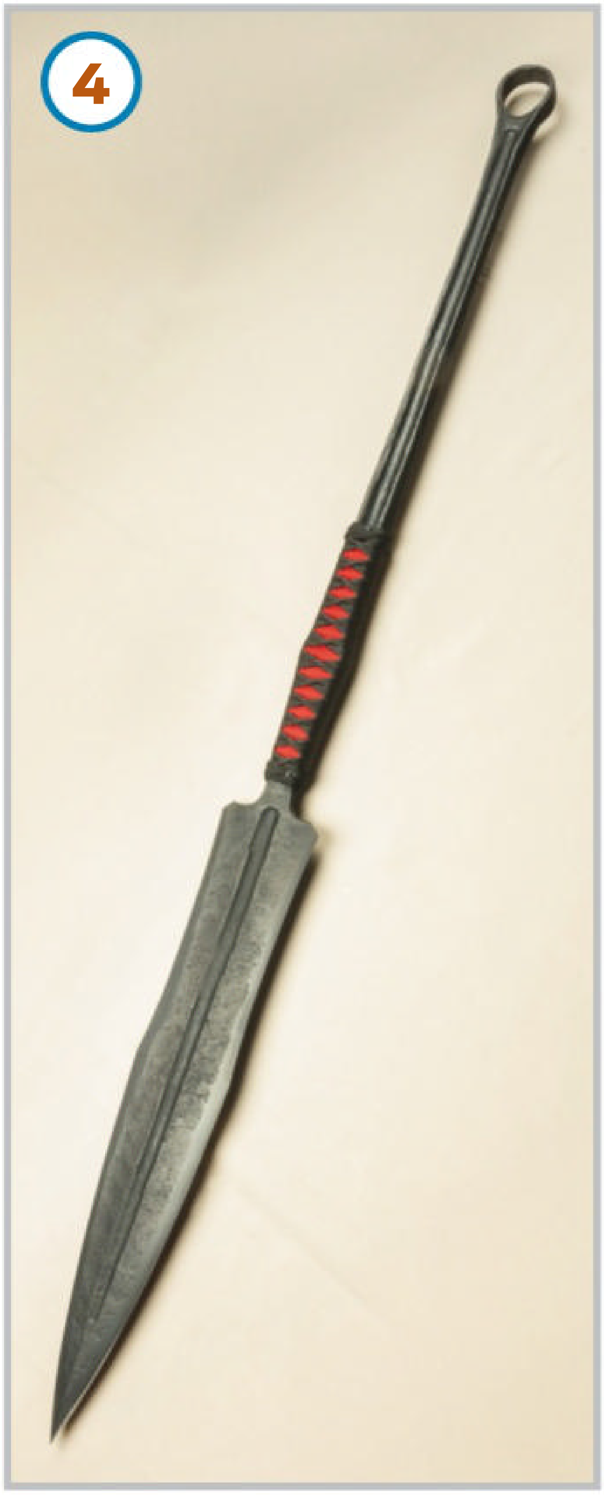
CONSTRUCTION: Hidden tang

HANDLE MATERIAL: Brazilian kingwood (jacaranda violeta)

APPROXIMATE OVERALL LENGTH: 15"

SHEATH: Cowhide, alligator leather and damascus button

MAKER'S PRICE FOR A SIMILAR KNIFE: Contact maker for pricing



4. CUSTOM BEST OF THE REST:

Seth Lopez

MODEL NAME: Zulu Spear

DESIGNERS: Seth Lopez and Will Stelter

BLADE LENGTH: 16"

BLADE MATERIAL: 5160 carbon steel

BLADE GRIND: Convex

BLADE @THICKEST: .3"

BLADE PATTERN: Gladius

BLADE COAT: Murdered-out black finish

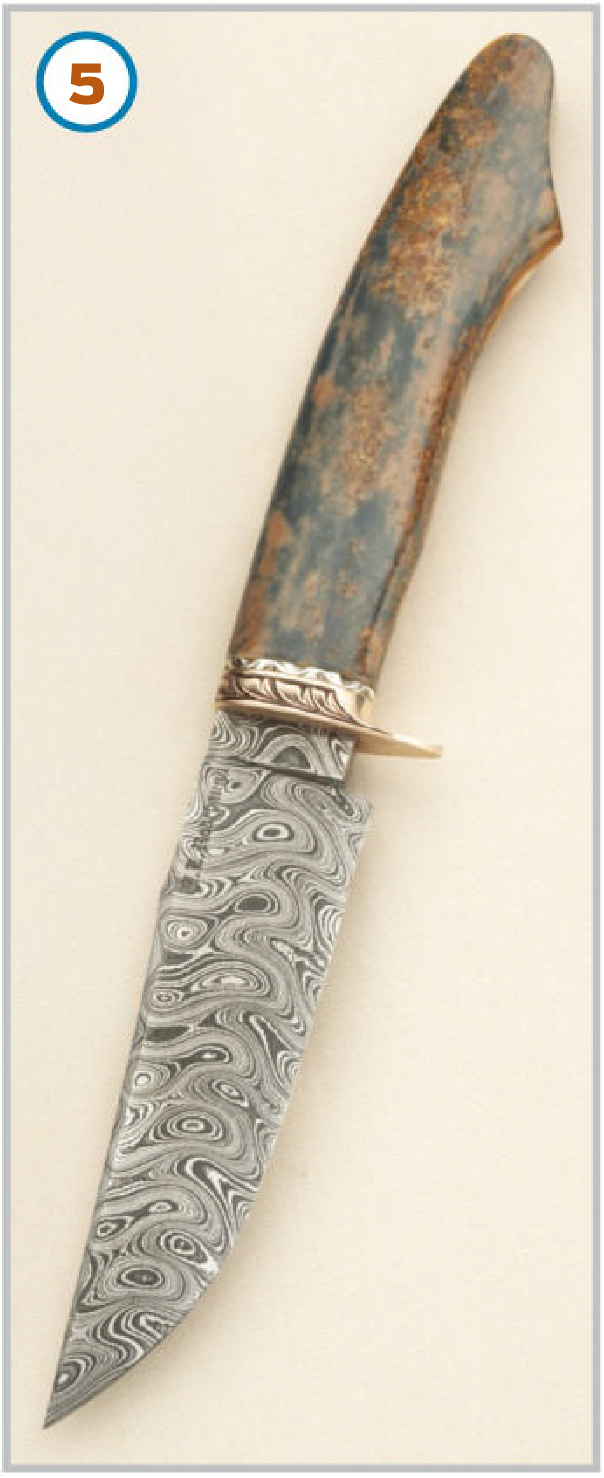
CONSTRUCTION: Fully integral

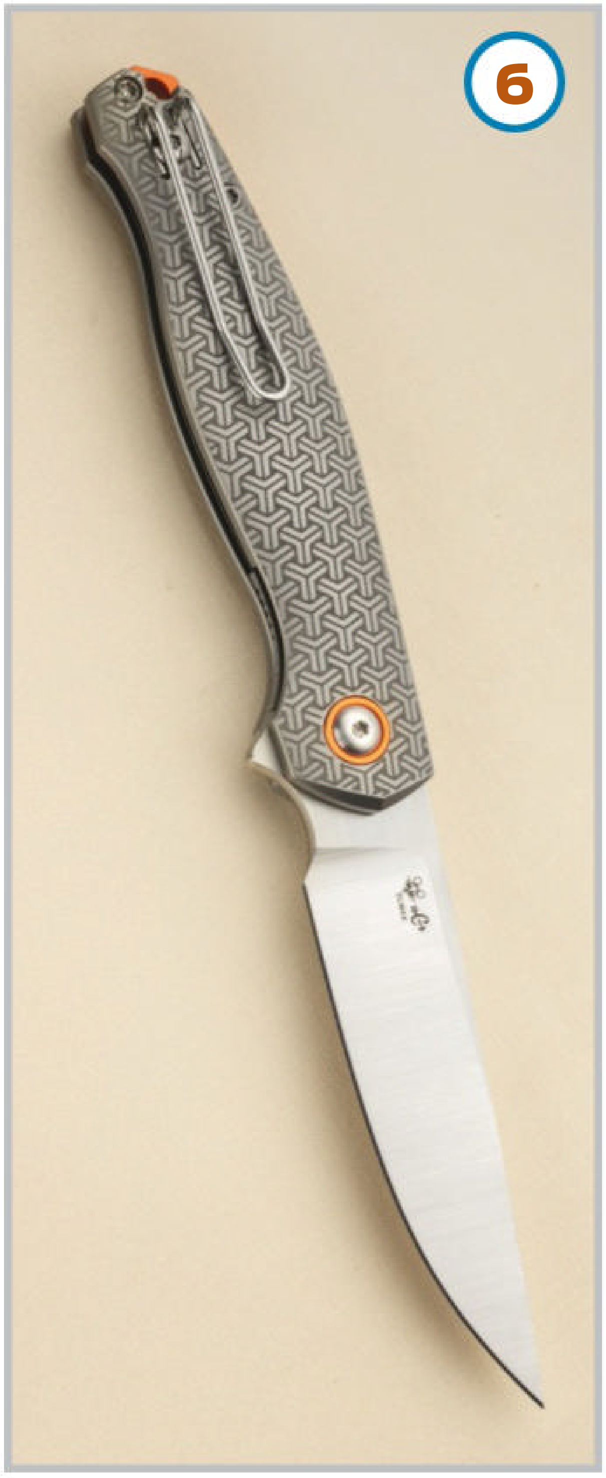
HANDLE MATERIAL: Japanese *ito* wrap

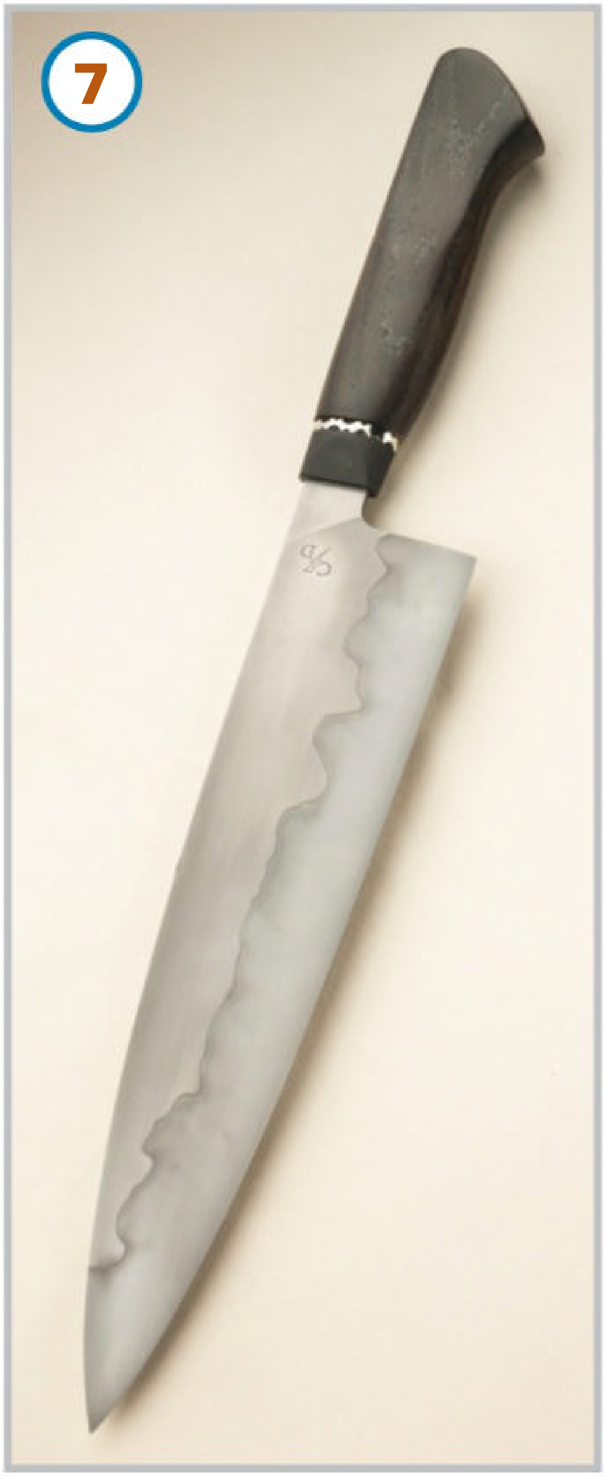
OVERALL LENGTH: 38.5"

KNIFE TO KNOW: Brut de forge finish w/ forged fullers in blade and handle

MAKER'S PRICE FOR A SIMILAR PIECE: Contact maker for pricing







5. CUSTOM BEST HUNTER:

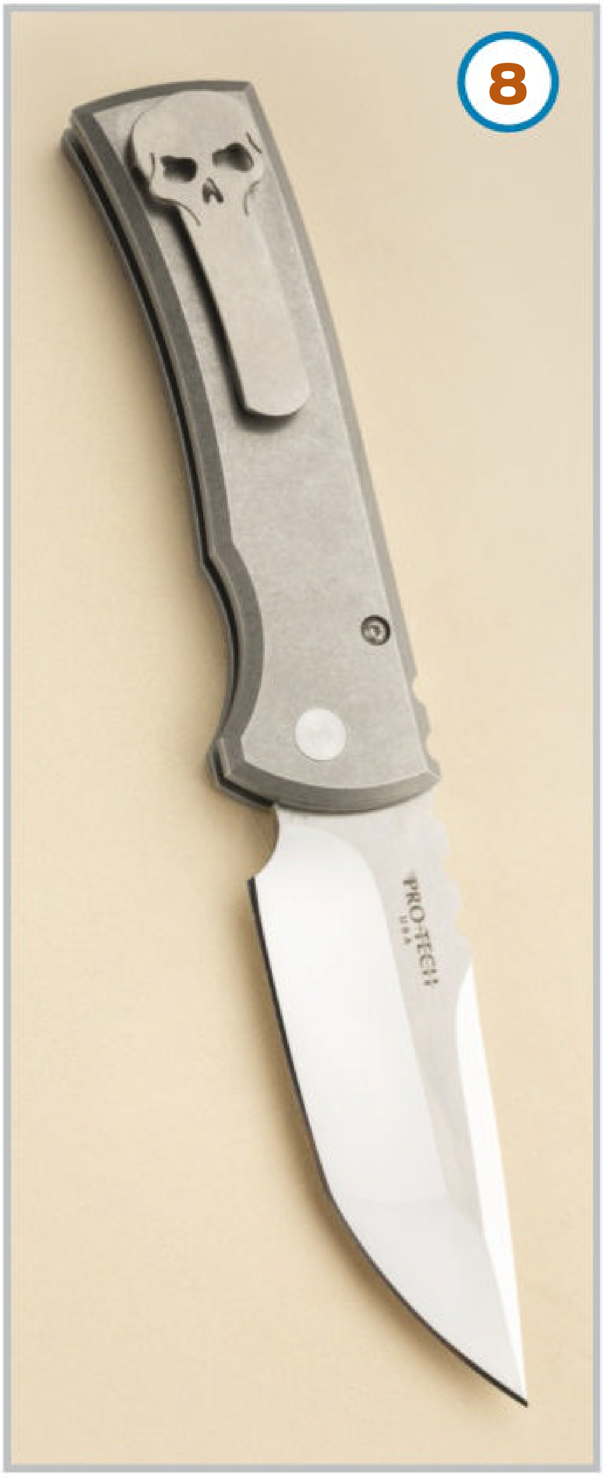
James Rodebaugh
KNIFE NAME: Kestrel bird & trout
BLADE LENGTH: 3 5/16"
BLADE MATERIAL: 150-layer Wyoming Wind damascus forged from 1084 carbon and 15N20 nickel-alloy steels
BLADE GRIND: Flat
BLADE @THICKEST: .138"
BLADE PATTERN: Turkish clip w/raised swedge
BLADE FINISH: Etched and polished to 5,000 grit
CONSTRUCTION: Hidden tang
HANDLE MATERIAL: Ancient walrus ivory
WEIGHT: 2 5/8 ozs.
OVERALL LENGTH: 7 3/8"
SHEATH: 10-oz. saddle leather tooled in a basketweave pattern by the maker
KNIFE TO KNOW: Hand engraved and silver fileworked by the maker
MAKER'S PRICE FOR A SIMILAR KNIFE: $1,800

6. FACTORY BEST EDC:

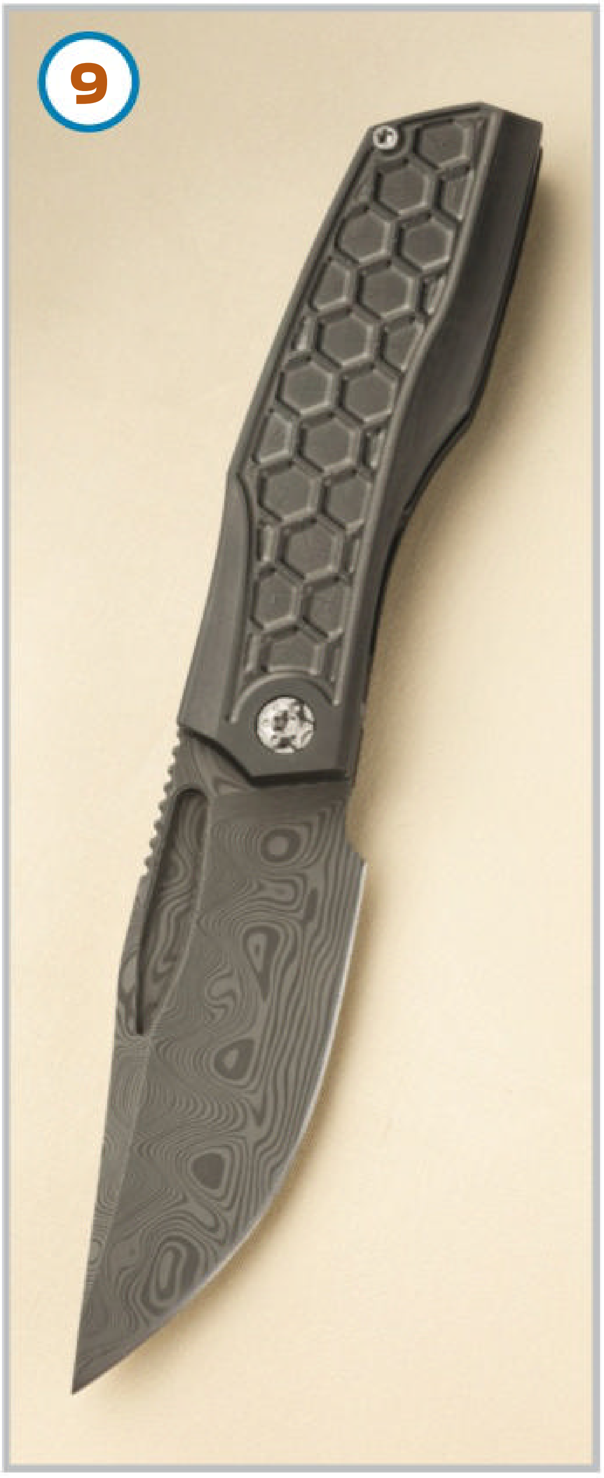
GiantMouse Sonoma V2 Carryology Edition
KNIFE TYPE: Flipper folder
DESIGNERS: Jesper Voxnaes & Jens Ansø
BLADE LENGTH: 3.4"
BLADE STEEL: Elmax stainless
ROCKWELL HARDNESS: 60 HRC
BLADE GRIND: 20°
BLADE @THICKEST: .138"
BLADE PATTERN: Straight back
BLADE FINISH: Satin
BLADE PIVOT MATERIAL: Ball bearings
CONSTRUCTION: Screw
HANDLE MATERIAL: Titanium
LOCK: Linerlock
POCKET CLIP TYPE AND MATERIAL: Reversible, wire
WEIGHT: 3.8 ozs.
CLOSED LENGTH: 4.5"
KNIFE TO KNOW: Carryology Auxikko pattern on the scales
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Italy
MSRP: $295
AVAILABLE: Sold out

7. CUSTOM BEST KITCHEN KNIFE:

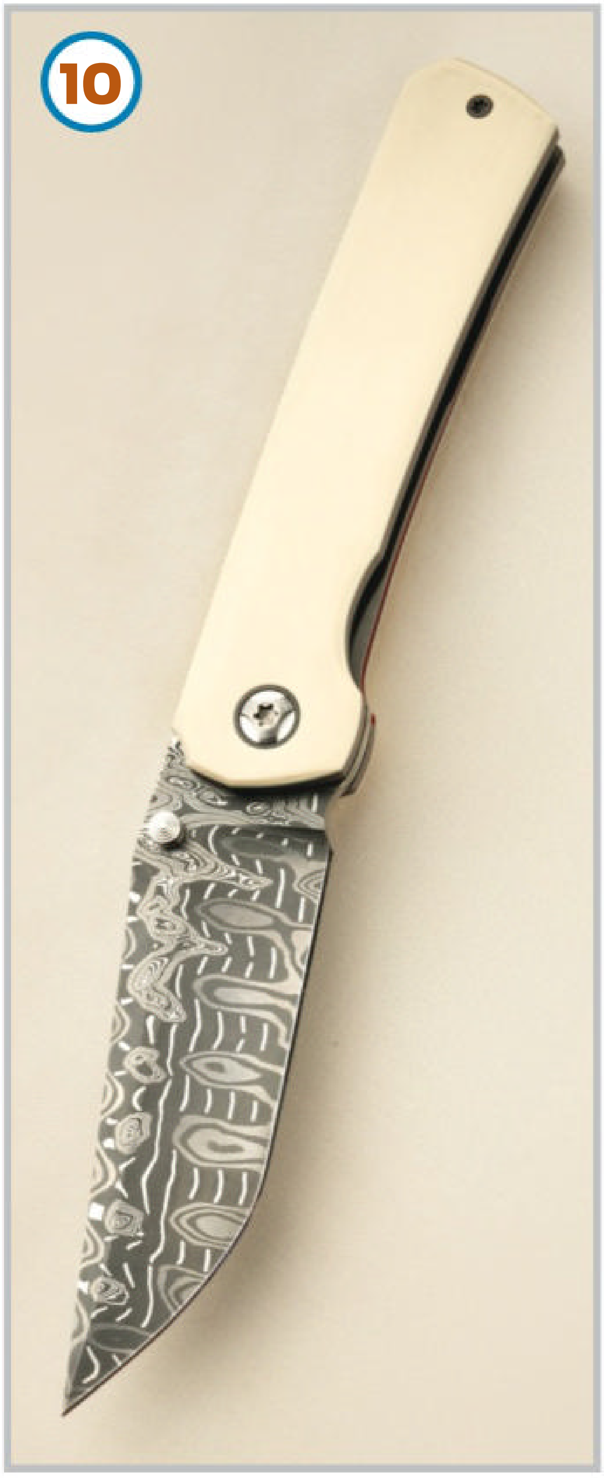
Corey Dunlap
PATTERN: Chef's knife
DESIGNER: Corey Dunlap
BLADE LENGTH: 9"
BLADE MATERIAL: W2 tool steel
ROCKWELL HARDNESS: 62 HRC
BLADE @THICKEST: .094"
CONSTRUCTION: Hidden tang w/fitted Parkerized bolster and fileworked silver spacer
HANDLE MATERIAL: Ancient bog oak
WEIGHT: 5.9 ozs.
OVERALL LENGTH: 14"
MAKER'S PRICE FOR A SIMILAR KNIFE: Contact maker for pricing



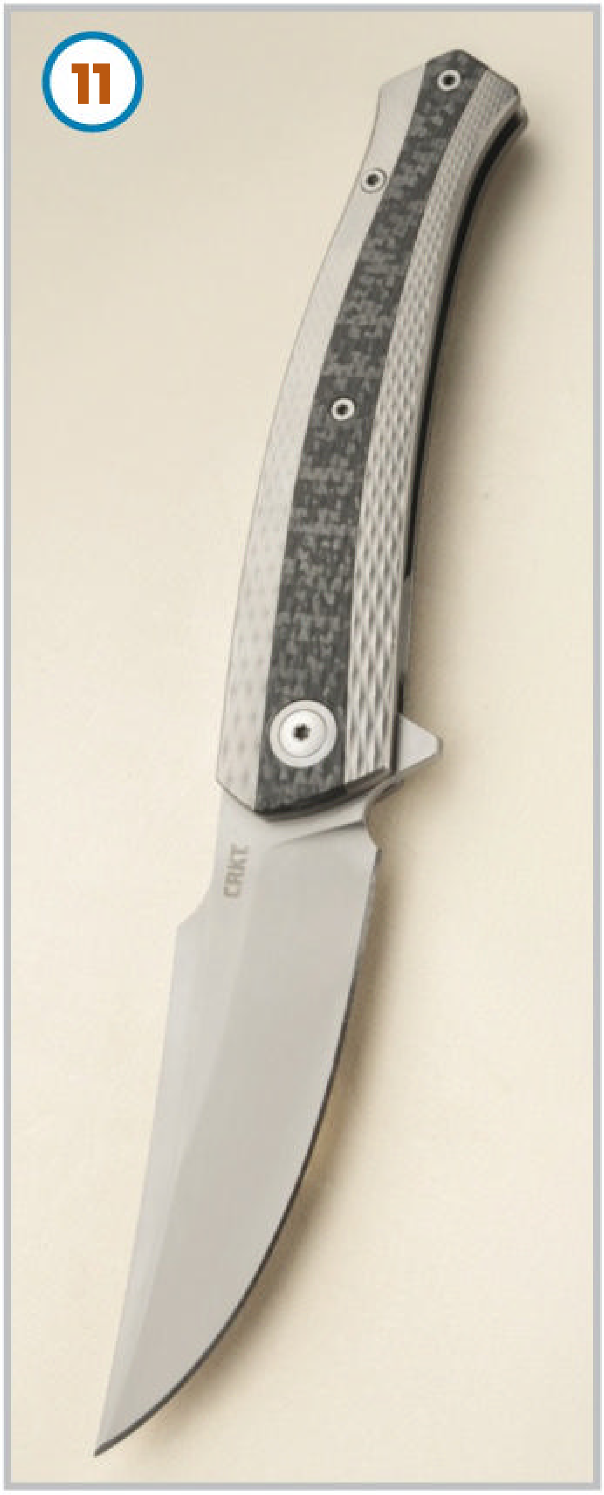
8. FACTORY BEST AMERICAN MADE: Pro-Tech Redencion Auto
KNIFE TYPE: Automatic
DESIGNER: Ramon Chaves
BLADE LENGTH: 3.4”
BLADE STEEL: 154CM stainless
ROCKWELL HARDNESS: 59-60 HRC
BLADE GEOMETRY: Compound grind by Mike Irie
BLADE @THICKEST: .125”
BLADE PATTERN: Modified tanto
BLADE FINISH: Mirror polished
CONSTRUCTION: Screw
HANDLE MATERIAL: 17-4 hardened stainless steel
LOCK: Button lock
POCKET CLIP MATERIAL: Titanium
WEIGHT: 8.99 ozs.
CLOSED LENGTH: 4.5”
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: USA
MSRP: $1,200
AVAILABLE: NOW



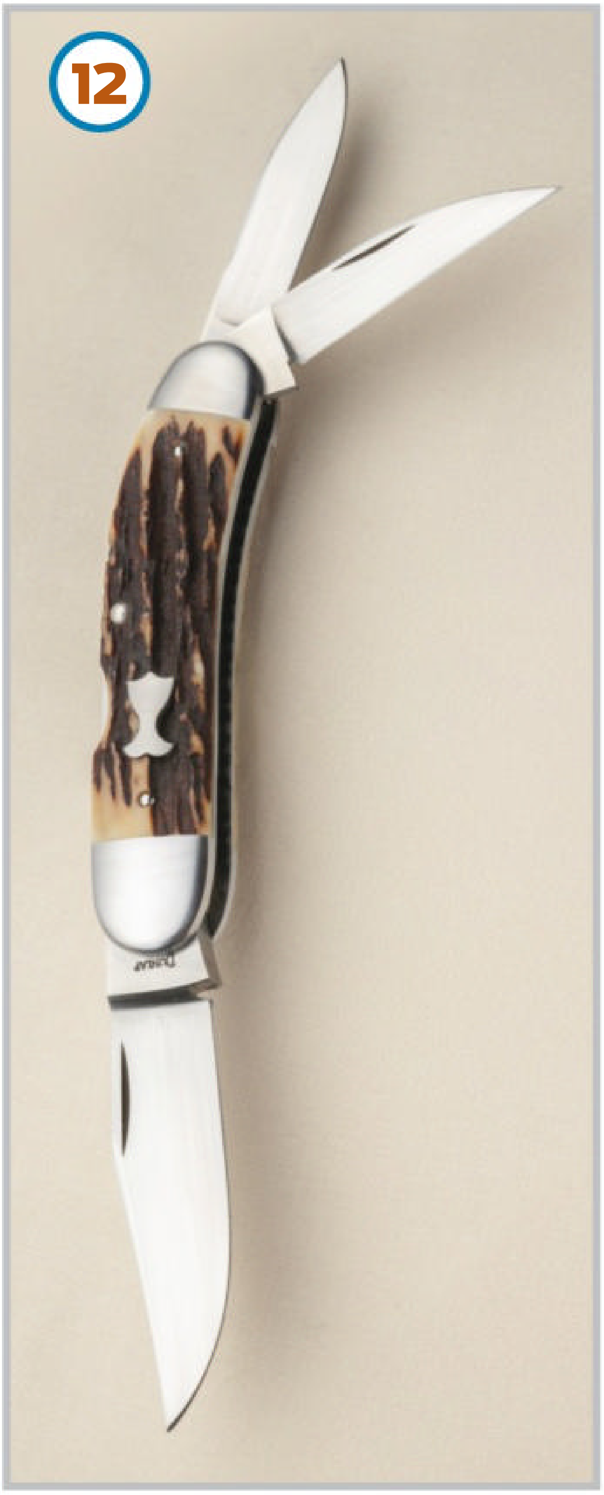
9. CUSTOM BEST M.A.C.K.: Princeton Wong
KNIFE NAME: Protean
KNIFE TYPE: Folder
BLADE LENGTH: 3.13”
BLADE MATERIAL: Grosserosen pattern damascus forged by Damasteel
BLADE GRIND: Hollow
BLADE @THICKEST: .16”
BLADE FINISH: Dark acid etch
BLADE OPENER: Finger groove on both sides
BLADE PIVOT MATERIALS: Caged ceramic bearings and hardened thrust washers
HANDLE MATERIAL: Zirconium show side and Grade 5 titanium lock side
LOCK: Framelock
POCKET CLIP: Machined/torch-colored black Timascus-Zirblast; righty, tip up
WEIGHT: 3.5 ozs.
CLOSED LENGTH: 4”
MAKER’S PRICE FOR A SIMILAR PIECE: Not available as it sold at auction



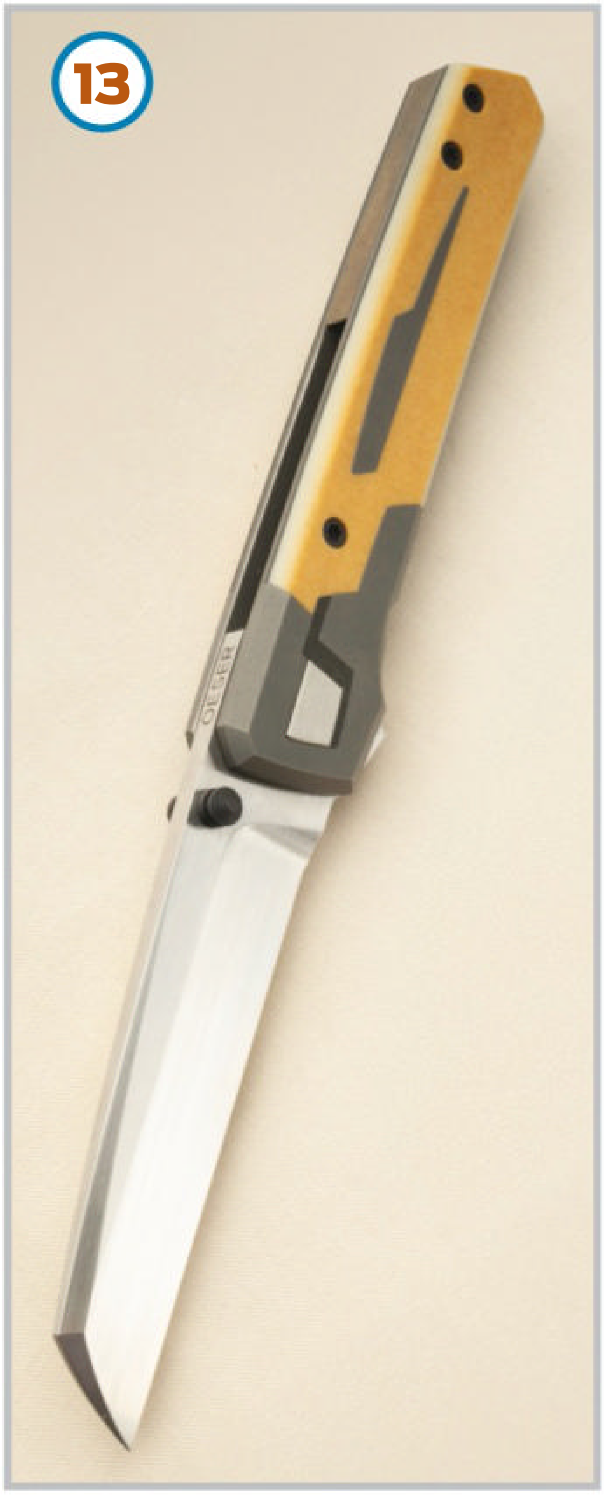
10. BEST CUSTOM FOLDER: Evan Nicolaides
KNIFE TYPE: Manual one-hand opener
BLADE STEEL: Mosaic damascus
BLADE PATTERN: Utility
LOCK: Linerlock
POCKET CLIP: Yes
KNIFE TO KNOW: According to one of the judges, “mechanically, Evan’s knife is perfect. The grinds are great, the finish is great, it works, good lock, the clip is well done, everything is just fantastically done on it. There are just no flaws.” Also, the material choices are cohesive, the pattern of the damascus draws your attention, the simplicity of the design is another highlight, and, finally, there’s “something for everyone” on this knife.
MAKER’S LIST PRICE FOR A SIMILAR KNIFE: Contact maker for pricing



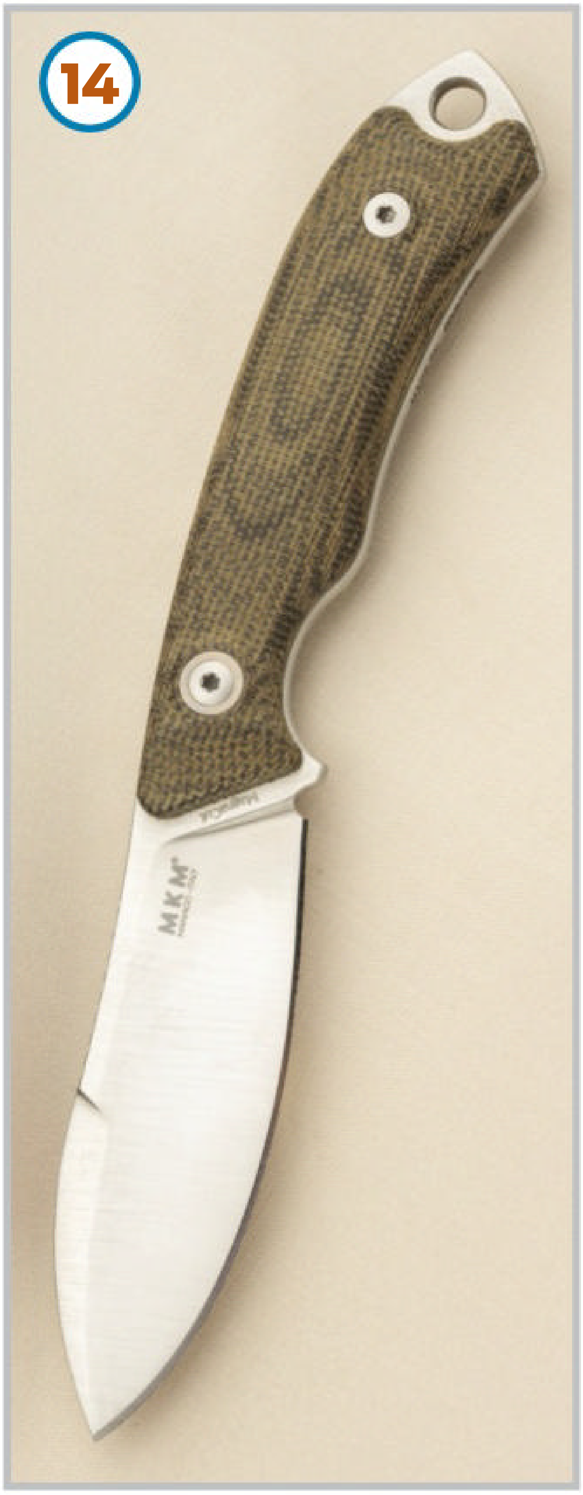
11. FACTORY BEST IMPORTED KNIFE: CRKT Persian
KNIFE: Flipper folder
DESIGNER: Richard Rogers
BLADE LENGTH: 3.51"
BLADE STEEL: CPM MagnaCut stainless
BLADE GRIND: Flat
BLADE @THICKEST: .13"
BLADE PATTERN: Hybrid trailing point/Persian
BLADE FINISH: Bead blast
BLADE PATTERN: Harpoon
HANDLE MATERIAL: Titanium w/carbon fiber inlay
LOCK: Framelock
BLADE PIVOT: Ikoma Korth Bearing System (ball bearing)
POCKET CLIP: Yes
WEIGHT: 3.6 ozs.
CLOSED LENGTH: 4.68"
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Italy
MSRP: $275
AVAILABLE: NOW



12. CUSTOM BEST SLIP JOINT: Jim Dunlap
PATTERN: Lockback whittler
BLADE PATTERNS: Clip, pen and wharncliffe
BLADE OPENER: Nail nicks
HANDLE MATERIAL: Stag
SHIELD: Bollocks
KNIFE TO KNOW: According to one of the judges, "Just a really nicely done knife. The action is incredibly smooth on the locking blade; it locks up super solid. No side-to-side play; the blades are thin. Overall, he kept the knife very thin, which is very difficult with a multi-blade. There's plenty of clearance between blades when they close, nothing's rubbing. The shape is good. He just did a beautiful job."
MAKER'S PRICE FOR A SIMILAR KNIFE: Contact the maker for pricing



13. CUSTOM BEST M.A.C.K. CONTENDER: Jared Oeser
KNIFE TYPE: Flipper folder
BLADE PATTERN: Modified sheepsfoot
BLADE PIVOT: Custom CNC'd
BLADE OPENERS: Flipper and ambidextrous thumb studs
HANDLE MATERIAL: Westinghouse Micarta® cut to fit over the titanium frame; CNC'd titanium inlays
LOCKBAR INSERT: Hardened 440C stainless steel
FRAME: Integral titanium
KNIFE TO KNOW: According to the judges, other than one technical flaw—a small, miscalibrated angle on the lockbar that was probably quickly fixable, maybe even with a little more tension on the lockbar—it was the best knife in the category. "I love the thin clip," one judge said. The blade is hand ground and hand finished.
MAKER'S LIST PRICE FOR A SIMILAR KNIFE: Contact maker for pricing



14. FACTORY BEST FIXED BLADE: Maniago Knife Makers Pocket Tango

KNIFE TYPE: EDC fixed blade

DESIGNER: David C. Andersen

BLADE LENGTH: 2.91"

BLADE STEEL: CPM MagnaCut stainless

BLADE @THICKEST: .12"

BLADE PATTERN: Nessmuk

BLADE FINISH: Satin

HANDLE MATERIAL: Green canvas Micarta®

WEIGHT: 2.33 ozs.

OVERALL LENGTH: 6.69"

SHEATH: Leather 100% vegetable tanned in Tuscany, Italy; pocket style w/magnetic clip

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Italy

MSRP: $235 at press-time rate of exchange

AVAILABLE: NOW

Buckeye Engraving
Stamps manufactured to fit your needs.

Custom Marking Products
Customize your blades with a stamp by Buckeye Engraving

Steel Hand Stamps
Leaving a Lasting Impression

Visit our website for more information or e-mail Stamps@BuckeyeEngraving.com to request a quote.

BuckeyeEngraving.com BE Ph: 330-677-5685

Salt Bath Kiln

- TAP and Solid State Control
- Oxygen Free Heating Treating
- Exceptional Heat Distribution

evenheat
Better by Design™
evenheat-kiln.com

7" x 7"
18" DEEP

The SPARTAN-HARSY "CLANDESTINA"

Winner of the 2024 International BLADE Show "Overall Knife of the year"

WWW.SPARTANBLADESUSA.COM

910-757-0035 / 625 SE Service Road, Southern Pines, NC 28387

RECOIL OFFGRID PRESENTS

DIY SURVIVAL

BEST HACKS FOR WORST-CASE SCENARIOS

ORDER TODAY AT
GUNDIGESTSTORE.COM
OR CALL 920.471.4522

BY **MIKE HASKEW** BLADE® FIELD EDITOR

Fantastic VOYAGES

The collaborations of Gil Hibben and Paul Ehlers speak volumes without using words

When the great design prowess of Paul Ehlers and the incomparable shop skills of BLADE Magazine Cutlery Hall-of-Fame® member Gil Hibben merged some 40 years ago, they produced a synergy seldom seen, elevating the knife industry to a new plane of creativity in the realm of the fantasy piece.

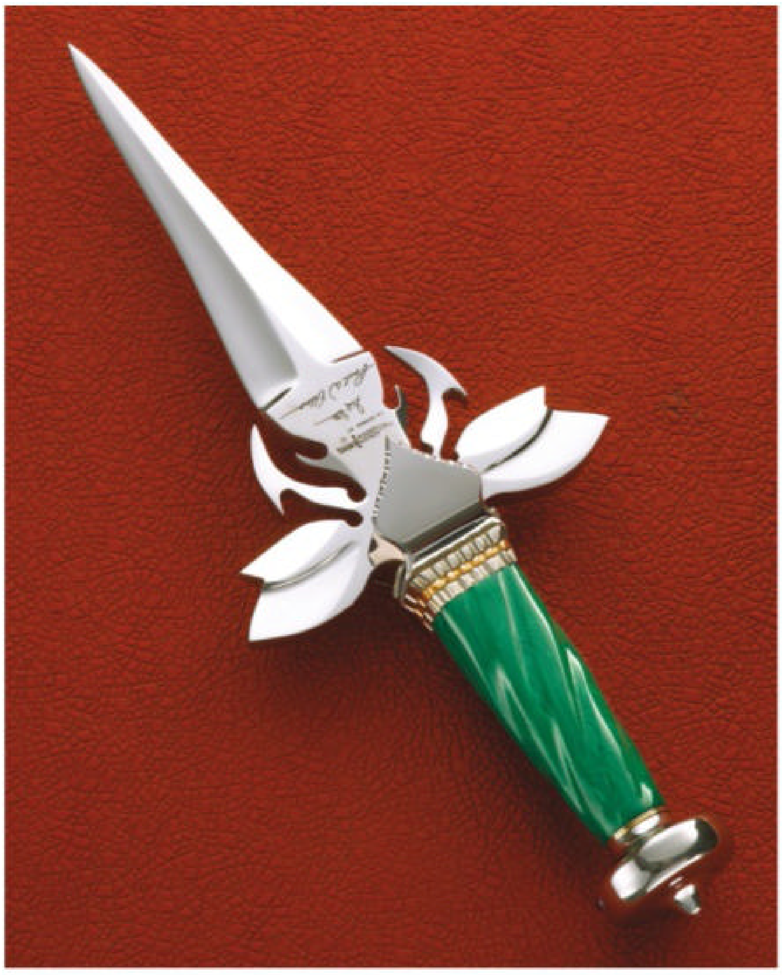
Following a trail blazed early by the likes of W.W. "Bud" Cronk, the pair brought vision and glimpses of other worlds from the realm of theory and the ephemeral to tangible, captivating and thoroughly gripping. During a custom knifemaking career that has spanned nearly seven decades, Hibben has been recognized as the author of extraordinary work, designing the first Browning hunting knives in 1968, earning a rightful place in the Cutlery Hall of Fame, and creating legendary knives for famed actor Sylvester Stallone in the Rambo film franchise, as well as the American Kenpo Knife for Gil's martial arts sensei, Ed Parker.

Ehlers is well known for his work in film, writing, voice, design and illustration. He was hired to produce a poster illustration for the 1981 cult classic film *Madman* and found himself cast as the title character, delivering an amazing performance. Versatility has been his hallmark through the years, expressing his artistic talent through a variety of media. His interests are literally boundless and his talents have been displayed across a broad spectrum of the arts.

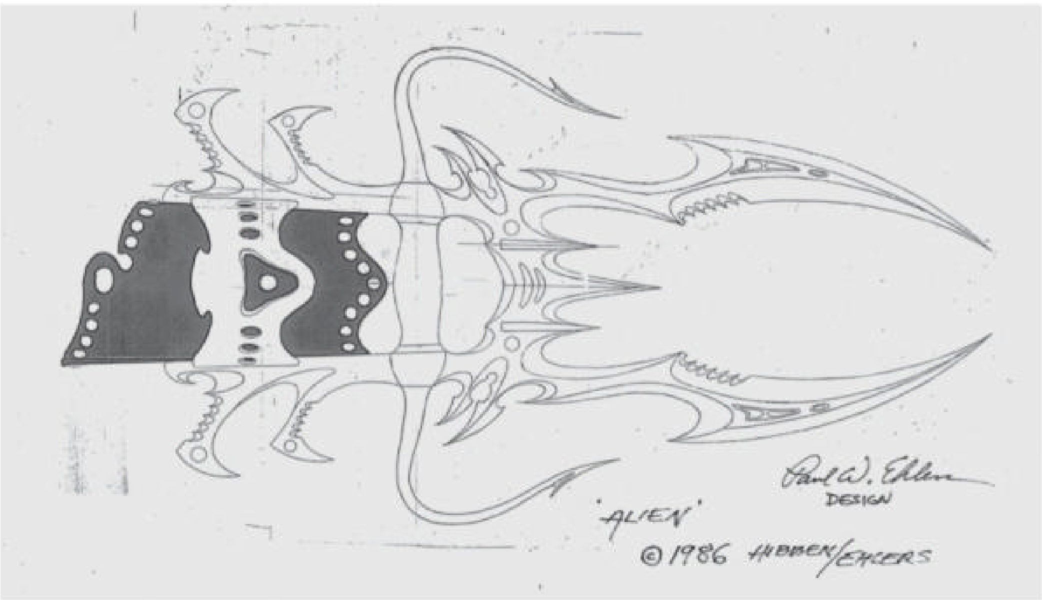
It was Ehlers' wide range of interests that led to a fortuitous conversation and brought about the most renowned collaboration in fantasy knife history—and one of the greatest industry wide in custom knives. "It arose from creativity on both parts," attested Linda Hibben, Gil's wife and a key individual through the years of the joint effort. "It was intended to create things that were never seen before in the knife industry, taking up the challenge to be true artists."

Paul remembered, "Gil Hibben's knives were featured in every martial arts magazine that I read. I was familiar with the Parker knife and wanted badly to buy one of Gil's

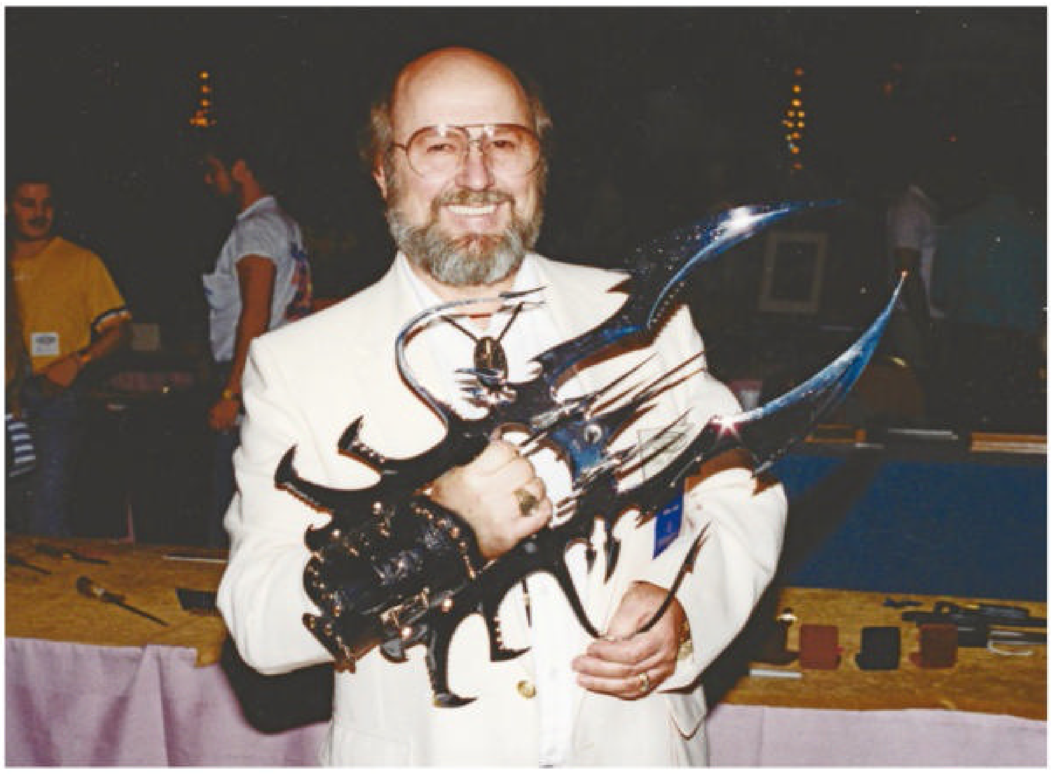
"HE HUFFED AND HE PUFFED, HE GROUND AND HE BUFFED AND EMERGED FROM HIS SHOP HOLDING THE NEW DRAGONFLY."
—PAUL EHLERS



Paul Ehlers conceived the Dragonfly, drew it on paper and mailed it to Gil Hibben, who took care of the rest. They exhibited the knife at the 1983 Knifemakers' Guild Show, where it sold for $3,000—an unheard-of price in those days. (Eric Eggly/PointSeven image)



Linda Hibben said Alien was the biggest Gil Hibben-Paul Ehlers showstopper and it's easy to see why. Inset is Paul's drawing of it and Gil wearing the gauntleted piece at an early '90s Knifemakers' Guild Show in Orlando. (image of Alien by Mike Carter; drawing courtesy of Paul Ehlers)



Linda and Gil Hibben, Christmas Day, 2023. (image courtesy of Linda Hibben)

MADMAN
A NOVEL BY
MATT SERAFINI
MADMAN

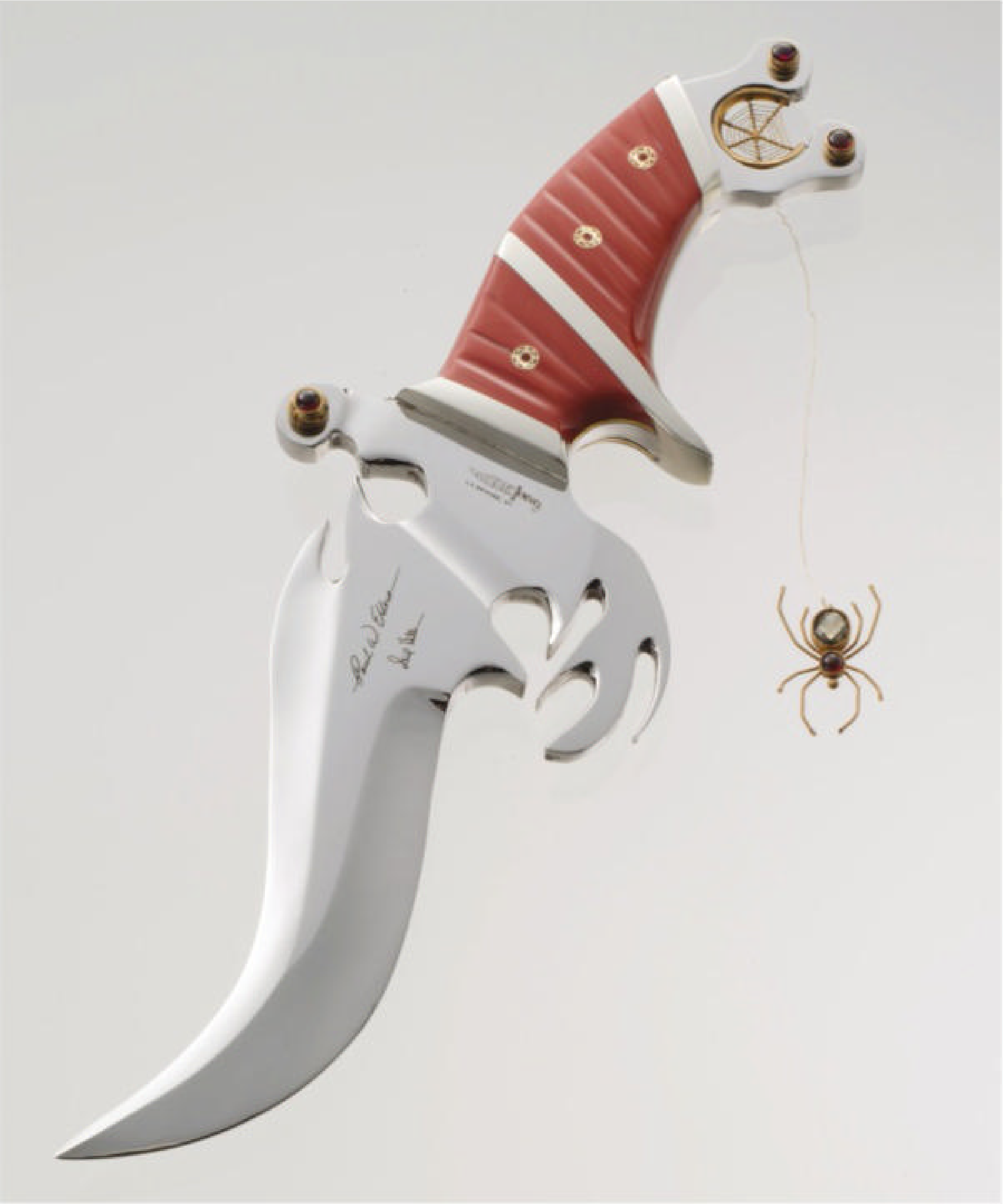
Paul Ehlers is well known for his work in film, writing, voice, design and illustration. He was hired to produce a poster illustration for the 1981 cult classic film *Madman* and found himself cast as the title character, delivering an amazing performance. (image courtesy of Paul Ehlers)

"I KNOW NOW WHAT OTHER MAKERS MEAN WHEN THEY ASK GIL, 'HOW THE HELL DID YOU MAKE THAT?'" —PAUL EHLERS

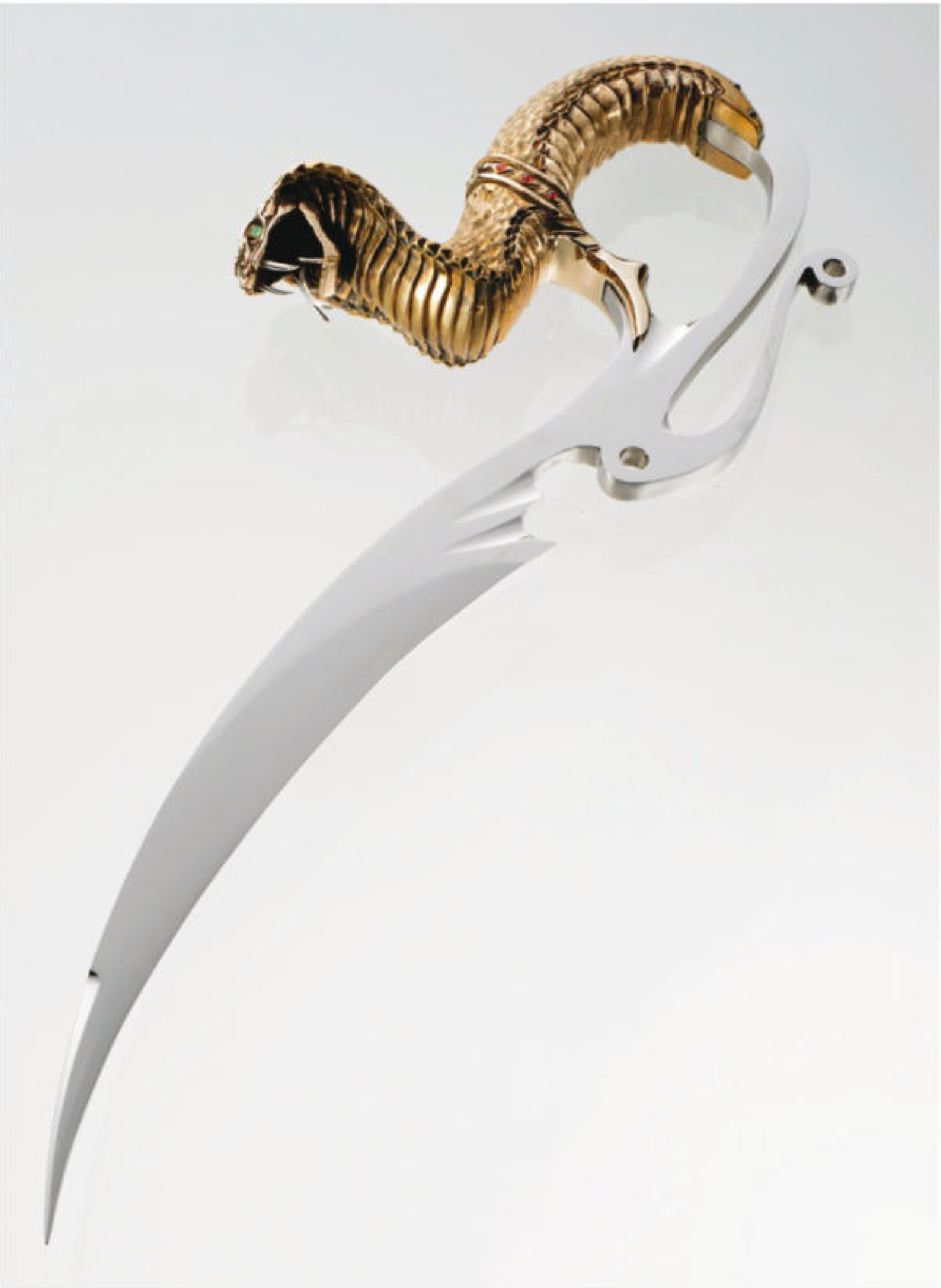
knives. So, by the mid-1980s I had saved enough money and placed an order with him." Hibben produced a custom survival bowie with a 10-inch blade, characteristic sawteeth reminiscent of his Rambo knives, and a handle in the style of the Parker knife. Pleased with the finished product, Paul told Gil that he was a designer and illustrator with a particular love for fantasy characters. He commented that he had always wanted to see his characters with stylized knives and swords to complement their presentation.

Gil responded enthusiastically to Paul's offer of sending an illustration for his review. "Love to see one!" was the reply. Game on.

Ehlers calls the initial brush with



Gil Hibben made the Elf Dirk in 1984. The image for it sprang from Paul Ehlers' fascination with gnomes, elves, giants and other mythical creatures. A spider dangles from its web, carefully crafted in a crevice of the handle. (Eric Eggly/PointSeven image)



Naja was completed in 1993. Norman Leigh's sculpted bronze cast of a cobra rises above the grip, gazing with inset cat's eye jewels for eyes and baring fangs. Paul Ehlers stated he considers Naja perhaps the finest art knife he and Gil Hibben have ever brought to life. (Eric Eggly/PointSeven image)

collaboration a "chance meeting of kindred souls." The illustration led Gil to the shop with the goal of producing a knife named the Shark. A short time later, the designer asked about the maker's progress. Hibben's response was electrifying: "I already made it and sold it!"

In a short time, the creative tandem gained momentum. Interestingly, their success may be linked to the fact that Paul does not make knives. "I admire, collect, use and draw them," he commented. "But Gil Hibben makes knives." By the time Gil and Paul brought their Dragonfly creation to the 1983 Knifemakers' Guild Show, there was excitement but also some trepidation. "We were concerned about how to price it, whether it would sell and how it might be received," Paul recalled. "Gil suggested that we put a price of $3,000 on it, and such a premium was almost unheard of in those days. But it sold!"

Ehlers had conceived the Dragonfly, drawn it on paper, rolled it up, and placed it in a mailing tube addressed to Hibben. When it reached him, Gil pursued the project with gusto even though the effort in itself was unprecedented. "Nothing like this had ever been made," Paul advised. "But that didn't stop him. He huffed and he puffed, he ground and he buffed and emerged from his shop holding the new Dragonfly."

"THE ALIEN WAS OUR BIGGEST SHOWSTOPPER."
—LINDA HIBBEN

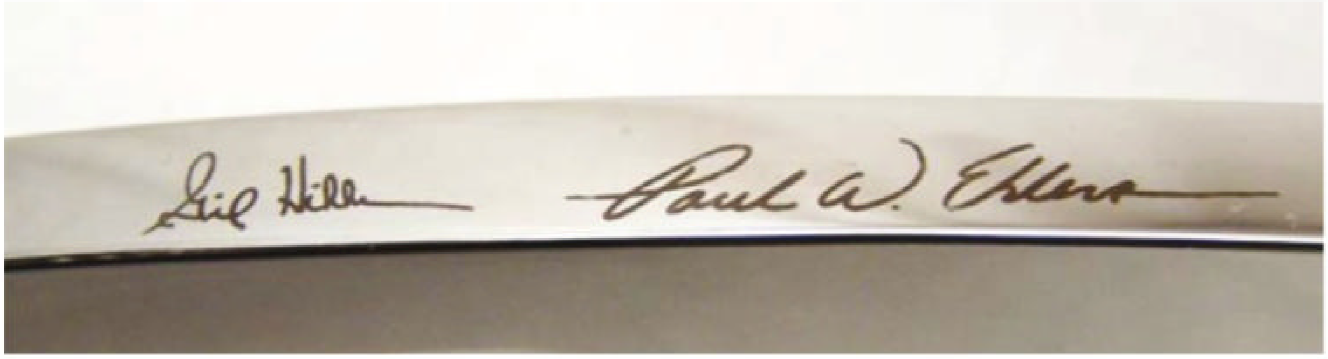
UNSEEN REALMS

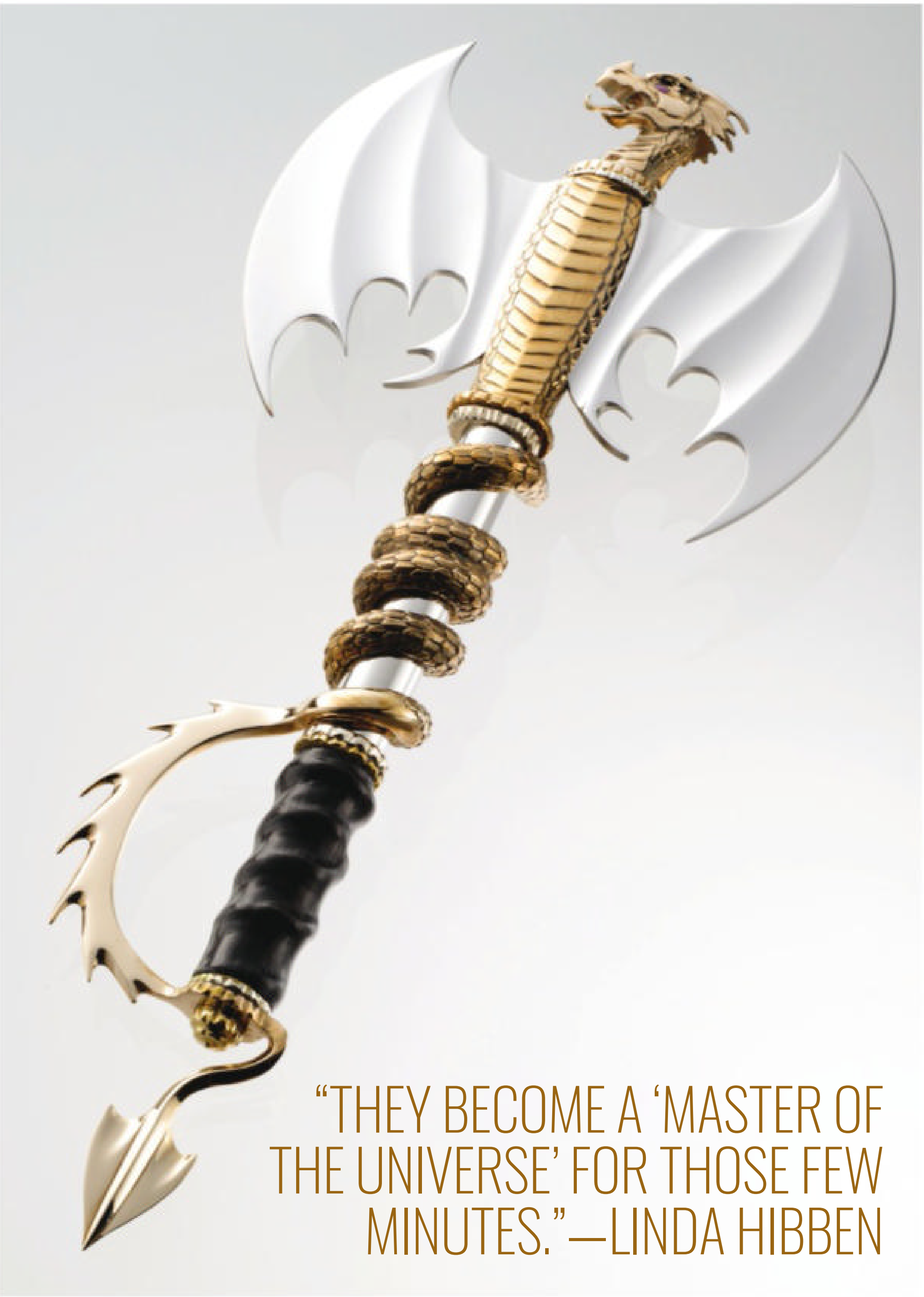
Through the years the Hibben-Ehlers team flourished, one teammate with ideas and the other with the astonishing ability to grind steel and finish creations that brought visions of light, darkness, other worlds, and realms unseen as the tangible, real and dazzling works that are known the world over. Paul's imagination effectively pushed Gil to new heights of creativity. The designer's mind had remained fortuitously free to imagine the fantastic and the elements of the outer limits of innovation.

"My mind was left open to create," Paul explained. "If I knew then what I know now it is possible my concepts may have been restricted by the 'impossible' factor. I know now what other makers mean when they ask Gil, 'How the hell did you make that?'"

Hibben, on the other hand, has stood up to the challenge and then some, delivering time after time. As the collaboration aged like fine wine to more than 30 years, it had produced more than 40 pieces—knives that came to life, from the mist of imagination to the gleam of steel, sculpture and artistry. According

If it doesn't have the signatures of both collaborators, it's not a Hibben-Ehlers knife. Here's how their signatures appear on Naja.





St. George's Axe is 22 inches long and features lost wax carvings by Richard Englers. Gil Hibben and Paul Ehlers (inset) exhibit their collaboration at the 1986 New York Custom Knife Show. (St. George's Axe image by Eric Eggly/PointSeven; image of Hibben and Ehlers courtesy of Linda Hibben)

> "THEY BECOME A 'MASTER OF THE UNIVERSE' FOR THOSE FEW MINUTES."—LINDA HIBBEN

to Linda, Gil once said, "I loved the challenges and making these pieces, each and every one of them. They made my creativity and skills set on fire! Paul's dreams are my nightmares!"

Looking back, a turning point for the Hibben-Ehlers collaboration occurred in the 1990s when a representative of the Sultan of Brunei contacted Paul with the shocking pronouncement that his employer wished to purchase many knives produced by the pair, with the added kicker that "money is no object." It was a compliment of the highest order and led to some remarkable achievements.

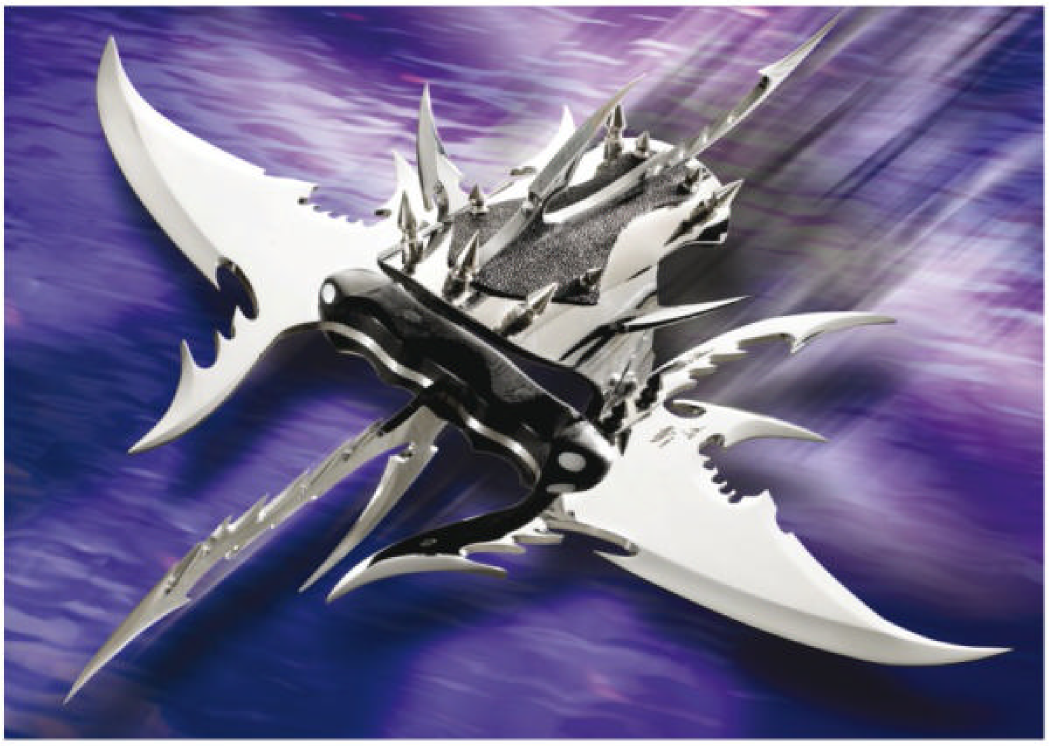
Throughout the collaborative years, Linda has been a tremendous contributor to the success of the enterprise. Gil is approaching his 90th birthday and suffered a stroke in the spring of 2016. However, he has been resilient and remains in touch with the custom knife community while Linda assists with his communications. Gil has stayed active in the shop and keeps up to date on the happenings in the knife community. "He still goes to his shop and even oversees knifemaking classes to this day," Linda noted. "The only lingering effect from the stroke is he has trouble with words and numbers once in a while. He has no major lingering side effects other than that." Ehlers, meanwhile, is quite busy with numerous endeavors, his creative energy as effervescent as ever.

Linda captured the spirit of the great team's aspirations, commenting, "They wanted knives to be taken to another level of art and imagination—to create and make sharpened shapes in steel that had not been done or seen before, and show that thinking 'outside the box' and making those creations into tangible works of edged art took a tremendous amount of skill. Just look at some of the grind lines Gil was able to accomplish."

SHOWSTOPPERS

Through the lens of knifemaking history and the gleaming facet of fantasy, those who see and admire the vision of Gil and Paul will continue to gaze with wide-eyed wonder at their works, including some of the most famous. The Alien, for example, was created in 1986 from a single piece of 440C stainless steel. "It burst from my mind in 1986," Paul recalled. "There are a myriad of extra blades, spikes and projections Gil calls 'long horns,' plus hooks and a leather arm gauntlet."

Linda noted, "The Alien was our biggest showstopper. This one got more attention at knife shows than any other. We allowed people to reach their arm into it and 'wear'



The Stingray incorporates elements of Alien, such as a gauntlet so you can hold the piece. Materials include rayskin and eyes of mother-of-pearl. (Eric Eggly/Point-Seven image)

the Alien, and in every instance the person's entire demeanor changed. It was like they became powerful, and the smiles on their faces when posing for photos was and is priceless. Gil made a total of five of these Aliens, each one a bit different. Number five rests in our private collection, and to this day when people come over and actually hold or 'wear' it, the magic is still there. They become a 'Master of the Universe' for those few minutes."

An early classic, the Elf Dirk was produced in 1984, and the image sprang from Ehlers' fascination with gnomes, elves, giants and other mythical creatures. Hibben wrought its sleek lines in 440C with a reconstituted coral handle, 14-karat gold and garnets. A spider dangles from its web, carefully crafted in a crevice of the handle. Naja, completed in 1993, remains a favorite. The undulations of the cobra are almost physically felt as Norman Leigh's sculpted bronze cast of the serpent rises above the grip, gazing with inset cat's eye jewels for eyes and baring fangs. Gil's expertise is on full display in this tour de force, and Paul considers Naja perhaps the finest art knife the two have ever brought to life.

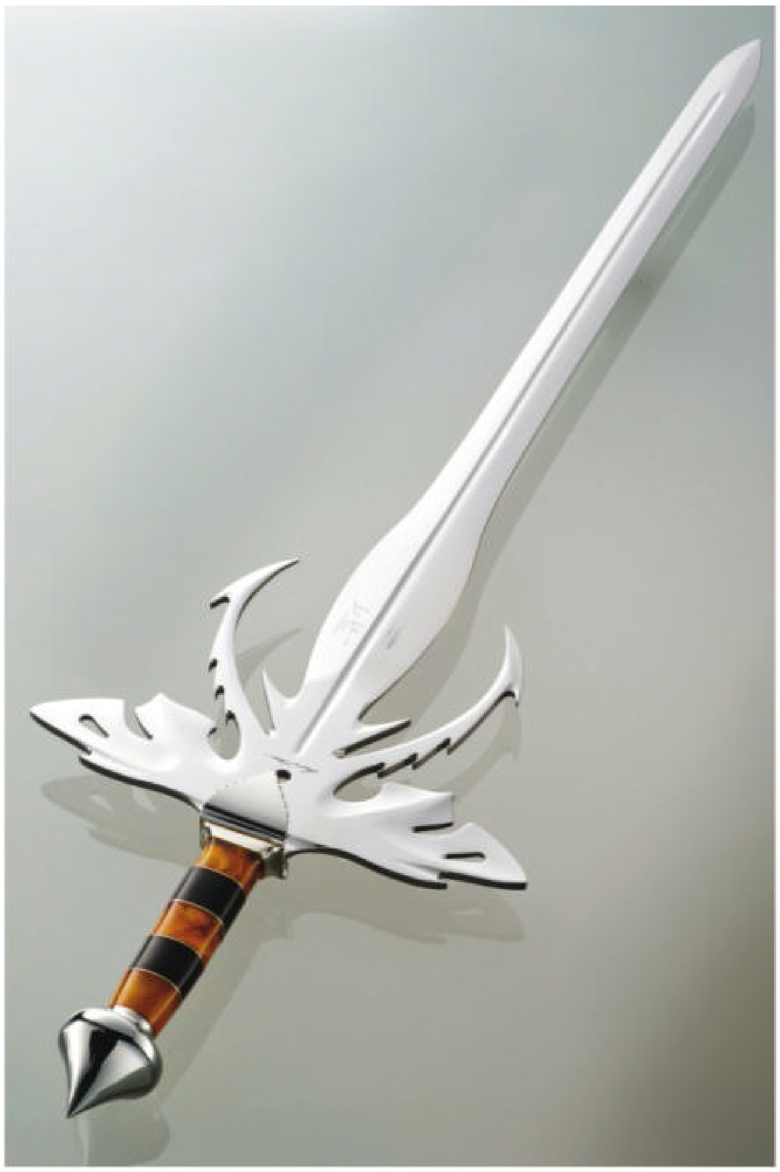
Artists, innovators, visionaries and friends, Gil and Paul have created a body of work that speaks volumes without words, just towering interpretation and storytelling in thought and grind, idea and finish. Those who contemplate their many completed projects are often left speechless as well, awed by the intricacy, the timeless, tantalizing and touching renderings of their complementary experience.

For more information visit https://www.hibbenknives.com/.

For the latest knives, knife news, trends and more, visit ***blademag.com,*** BLADE®*'s popular Instagram page* ***@blade_magazine****, and on* ***Facebook*** *and* ***Twitter****.*

BLADE

Gil Hibben works on a fantasy piece in his shop in December 2004.



The Hibben-Ehlers team collaborated on both knife and sword versions of the Hornet. The sword appears here. (Eric Eggly/PointSeven image)

THE KNIFE I CARRY

BY **EDEN FAITH SCHWANKE**

"I started my knife collection at the age of 7. I was the type of kid who didn't just want toys at Christmas, but knives with unique character to grow my collection. I have been carrying the **CRKT Nirk Tighe 2** for about six years. It's my favorite because it is a recurved folding tactical with a skeleton handle, blue accents, and has the ability to complete any job I need it for."

Eden Faith Schwanke,
Brookfield, Connecticut

For the latest knives, knife news, trends and more, visit ***blademag.com****,* BLADE®*'s popular* ***Instagram*** *page* ***@blade_magazine****, and on* ***Facebook*** *and* ***Twitter****.*

BLADE

WIN A KNIFE!

Tell us what knife you carry. Add a little history or an anecdote. Try to include a photograph—if digital, at least 600 KB but no larger than 2 MB—of you with your knife. We will publish your comments in an upcoming "The Knife I Carry." Your name will then be entered in a drawing to win a free, high-quality, name-brand knife. The drawing will be May 15. Mail to: *BLADE*®, 5583 W. Waterford Ln., Suite D, Appleton, WI 54913, or e-mail steve@blademag.com. If you send your entry by e-mail, please include your physical mailing address in case you win the knife.

Knife Knowledge Found Here!

KNIVES 2025, presented by **BLADE**, has more of what you're looking for: knives, knives ... and more knives! In-depth stories, new products and stunning custom designs in full color, along with contact info for the featured makers, combine to make this a treasured reference you'll reach for again and again. Order today!

BLADE® PRESENTS
45th Edition
Knives
The World's Greatest Knife Book
2025
1000+ PHOTOS OF CUSTOM FOLDERS, FIXED-BLADES, SWORDS & CHEF'S KNIVES
+NEW FACTORY KNIVES FOR HUNTING, CAMPING AND EDC
EDITED BY JOE KERTZMAN

The Japanese Nata
Defies Description

PRODUCT NO. S8464
$39.99

Order online at
ShopBlade.com or call **920.471.4522**

amazon.com Also available on Amazon in print and e-book!

SHOW CALENDAR

BY BLADE® STAFF

Note: Entries with an asterisk (*) include knives and knife accessories as the main/sole focus. Entries with two asterisks (**) include knife seminars or symposiums, cutting or balisong competitions, auctions or other knife-related events.

DECEMBER

DEC. 7 LEXINGTON, KY Kentucky Custom Knife Show, Embassy Suites Lexington Green. Visit Facebook @Kentucky Custom Knife Show. Visit kycks.bigcartel.com.

DEC. 7 EUGENE, OR The OKCA Mini-December Show, Lane Events Center. Visit oregonknifecollectors.com/events/.*

DEC. 14 RUTLEDGE, TN Grainger County Knife Show, 280 Bryan Rd. Call Anthony 865-765-4365.

2025

JANUARY

JAN. 21-24 LAS VEGAS The SHOT Show, Venetian Expo + Caesars Forum. For the trade only. Visit shotshow.org.

JAN. 24-25 LAS VEGAS Las Vegas Antique Arms Show, Westgate Resort & Casino. Call 877-968-8880 x755, email info@morphyauctions.com and/or visit antiquearmsshow.com.

JAN. 31 ANAHEIM, CA Tactical Knife Invitational, Embassy Suites Anaheim South. Visit RECON1.com.

JAN. 31-FEB. 2 LAKELAND, FL The 47th Annual Gator Cutlery Club Custom, Modern & Antique Knife Show, RP Funding Center (formerly Lakeland Center). Contact Dan Piergallini 813-754-3908 or 967-1471.*

FEBRUARY

FEB. 1-2 ANAHEIM, CA California Custom Knife Show – Spring, Embassy Suites Anaheim South. Visit RECON1.com.

FEB. 15 OKLAHOMA CITY, OK Oklahoma's Largest Knife Show, Oklahoma City Fairgrounds. For more info visit oklahomaknifegroup.com.* **

MARCH

MARCH 7-8 FORT WORTH, TX The 4th Annual BLADE Show Texas, Fort Worth Convention Center. Visit bladeshowtexas.com.* **

MARCH 14 PIGEON FORGE, TN Spring Spirit of Steel Pigeon Forge Knife Show, Smoky Mountain Convention Center. Visit spiritofsteelknifeshow.com.* **

MARCH 28-30 JANESVILLE, WI 2025 Badger Knife Show, Holiday Inn Express and Janesville Conference Center. Contact www.badgerknifeclub.com or call Robert Schrap 414-479-9765 or email nancyschrap@aol.com.*

APRIL

APRIL 3-6 MCCALLA, AL The 35th Annual Batson Bladesmithing Symposium & Knife Show, Tannehill Ironworks Historical State Park. Visit https://alaforge.org/batson-blade-symposium.html. * **

APRIL 5-6 TULSA OK Wanenmacher's Tulsa Arms Show, Expo Square (Tulsa Fairgrounds). Visit tulsaarmsshow.com.

APRIL 5-6 BELLVILLE, TX Texas Select Custom Cutlery Event, Austin County Fair Convention & Expo Center. Visit TexasSelectEvent.com.*

APRIL 12-13 EUGENE, OR The 47th Annual Oregon Knife Show, Lane Events Center. Contact the Oregon Knife Collectors Association, Dept. BL10, POB 2091, Eugene, OR 97402 541-972-3393 info@oregonknifecollectors.com, oregonknifecollectors.com.*

APRIL 12-13 EASTON, PA Lehigh Valley Knife Show, Charles Chrin Community Center of Palmer Township. For info call 267-714-4441 or visit paknifeshows.com.*

APRIL 25-26 WASHINGTON, AR The 3rd Annual James Black's Bowie Heritage Festival, Historic Washington State Park. Visit bowieknifefest.com.* **

APRIL 25-26 SOLVANG, CA Solvang Knife Show 2025, Craft House at Corque. Visit solvangcustomknifeshow.com*

MAY

MAY 10 STURBRIDGE, MA The NCCA One-Day Knife Show, Host Hotel & Conference Center. Contact Lynn Cain 978-249-6070 lynnster29@aol.com.

JUNE

JUNE 6-8 ATLANTA, GA The 44th Annual BLADE Show, Cobb Galleria Centre, I-285 & US 41, one exit off I-75 across from the Cumberland Mall, adjacent to the Renaissance Waverly Hotel. World's largest show of handmade, factory and antique knives. A combined total of nearly 1,000 exhibitor tables and booths. Join the world's greatest national and international knifemakers, cutlery manufacturers, collectors, collections and knife lovers. Site of the BLADE Magazine 2025 Knife Of-The-Year® Awards for factory knives, the BLADE Show Custom Knife Judging Competition, the BLADE Magazine Cutlery Hall-Of-Fame© inductions and much more. Host to BLADE University, the annual ABS meeting and more. Seminars include the BLADE Show World Championship Cutting Competitions, 9th Annual Battle for Bali Champion, how to use knives, how to make them, etc. Contact BLADE®, c/o Alicia Newton blade@bladeshow.com, and/or visit bladeshow.com.* **

JULY

JULY 10-12 VADSTENA, SWEDEN KnivExpo 2025, Vadstena Castle. Visit https://www.knivexpo.se/en/.* **

JULY 11 LITTLE VALLEY, NY Village of Knives Knife Show, Cattaraugus County Fairgrounds. Visit villageofknives.com.

AUGUST

AUG. 1-2 ROGERS, AR Natural State Knife Show, Embassy Suite. Visit naturalstateknifeshow.com.

AUG. 15-16 LEXINGTON, KY Central Kentucky Knife Show, Clarion Hotel Convention Center. Contact Kathy Litton 502-863-1840 litton711@aol.com.*

AUG. 21 JERSEY CITY, NJ Arts In Metal Premier Art Knife Exhibition, Westin Jersey City Newport. Visit fiftyfiftyproductions.net.*

AUG. 22-23 JERSEY CITY, NJ New York Custom Knife Show, Westin Jersey City Newport. Visit fiftyfiftyproductions.net.*

SEPTEMBER

SEPT. 27-28 EASTON, PA Lehigh Valley Knife Show, Charles Chrin Community Center of Palmer Township. For info call 267-714-4441 or visit paknifeshows.com.*

OCTOBER

OCT. 10-11 SALT LAKE CITY, UT The 2025 BLADE Show West, Salt Palace Convention Center. Visit bladeshowwest.com.* **

OCT. 24 WOODLAND HILLS, CA Friday Night Blade Affair - Warner Center Marriott. Visit RECON1.com

OCT. 25-26 WOODLAND HILLS, CA California Custom Knife Show - Fall, Warner Center Marriott. Visit RECON1.com.

NOVEMBER

NOV. 8-9 TULSA OK Wanenmacher's Tulsa Arms Show, Expo Square (Tulsa Fairgrounds). Visit tulsaarmsshow.com.

2026

JANUARY

JAN. 30-FEB. 1 LAKELAND, FL The 48th Annual Gator Cutlery Club Custom, Modern & Antique Knife Show, RP Funding Center (formerly Lakeland Center). Contact Dan Piergallini 813-754-3908 or 967-1471.*

APRIL

APRIL 11-12 TULSA OK Wanenmacher's Tulsa Arms Show, Expo Square (Tulsa Fairgrounds). Visit tulsaarmsshow.com.

***Editor's note: Due to possible last-minute cancellations, if you plan to attend any of the shows listed, please contact them for more information.*

*To ensure timely publication of your knife show in the "Show Calendar," **BLADE**® requests that you e-mail all pertinent information concerning your show in written form—dates, locations, etc.—at least three months before the show takes place to **BLADE** c/o Lori McDaniel at lori@gundigest.com and/or Steve Shackleford at steve@blademag.com. **BLADE** depends on the shows themselves for prompt and accurate information.*

*For the latest knives, knife news, trends, and more, visit **blademag.com**, BLADE®'s popular Instagram page **@blade_magazine**, and on **Facebook** and **Twitter**.*

BLADE SHOW

The World's Largest Knife Show Series

TEXAS

Ft. Worth, TX | Mar 7-8, 2025

ATLANTA

Atlanta, GA | Jun 6-8, 2025

WEST

SLC, UT | Oct 10-11, 2025

SMKW 2025

TITLE SPONSOR

TICKETS & SHOW INFO

BLADESHOW.COM

THEBLADESHOW @BLADE_SHOW @BLADE.SHOW

Blade Shoppe

MARKETPLACE

For Advertising Information contact: Lori McDaniel, Advertising Sales
lori@gundigest.com
715.498.3768

Advertising Deadlines: March 2025 Issue - 01/04/2025

Buy-Sell-Trade
$ Paying top dollar $

**We are not affiliated with the "R.W. Loveless Knives" logos and products being made after Bob's death or any late period knives.*

Largest Selection In The World Of Vintage Knives by

BOB LOVELESS

The Only Exclusive Loveless Dealer. Knives From Riverside, Lawndale, & Delaware!

www.BobLovelessKnives.com

John Denton 706.781.8479 *(24-7)* John@BobLovelessKnives.com

"JOHN DENTON IS THE WORLD'S FOREMOST AUTHORITY ON LOVELESS KNIVES."
BLADE MAGAZINE

SCAGEL
Knives, Carving Sets, Axes, Marbles and Loveless Knives
WANTED

Gordon White
P.O. Box 181, Cuthbert, GA 39840
229-732-6982, anytime

WARNING BEWARE COUNTERFEIT

Edmund Davidson Integral Knives.
To see if You have been ripped off,
Contact Edmund at,
davidson.edmund@gmail.com

A SHARP LIFE
DO YOU WANT TO LEARN FROM THE GODFATHER?

TERZUOLA.NET

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

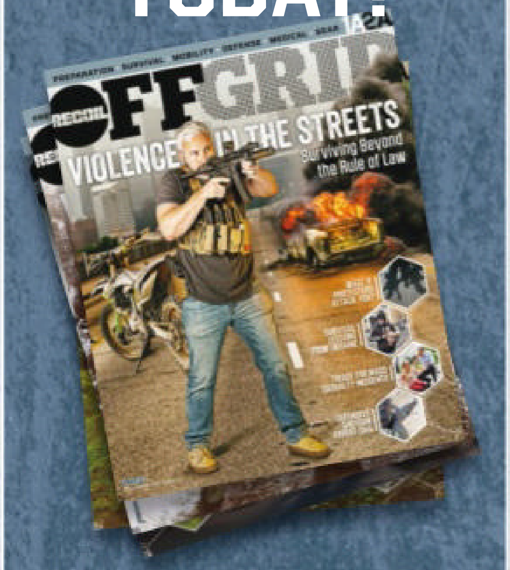
NEW FACTORY KNIVES FOR '24
BLADE
ELITE EDGES
BLADE SHOW TEXAS RECAP

THREE WAYS TO READ!
PRINT ONLY, DIGITAL ONLY,
OR PRINT+DIGITAL

NEW SUBSCRIBERS:
BladeMag.com/subscribe

TO RENEW:
BladeMag.com/renew

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

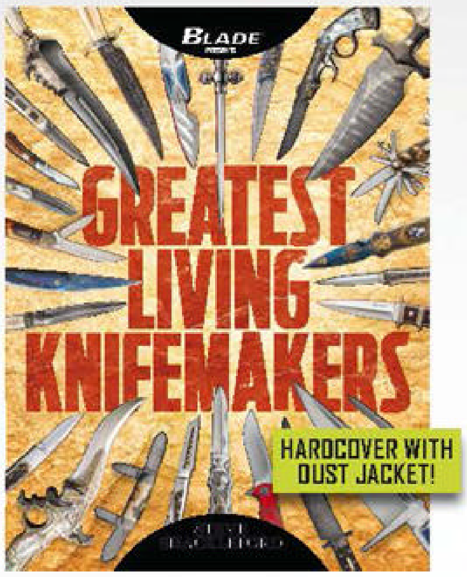


THREE WAYS TO READ!
PRINT ONLY, DIGITAL ONLY,
OR PRINT+DIGITAL

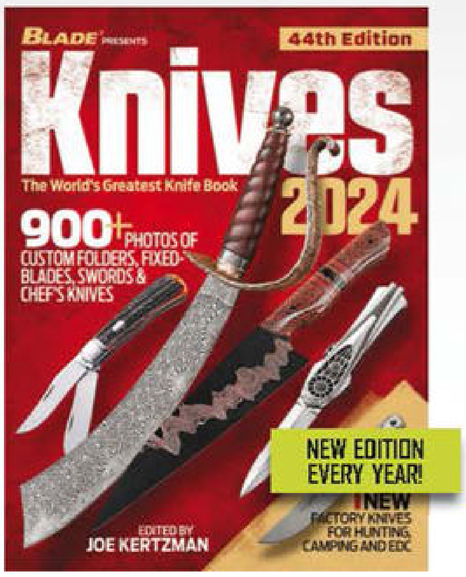
NEW SUBSCRIBERS:
OffgridWeb.com/subscribe

TO RENEW:
OffgridWeb.com/renew

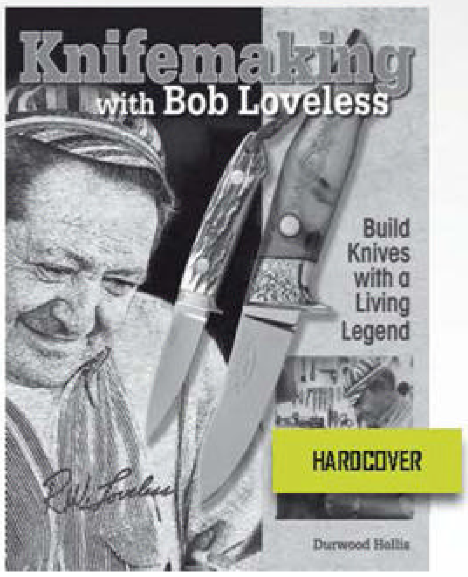
GET HOOKED ON THE KNIFE LIFE WITH BOOKS FROM BLADE


BLADE PRESENTS
GREATEST LIVING KNIFEMAKERS
HARDCOVER WITH DUST JACKET!

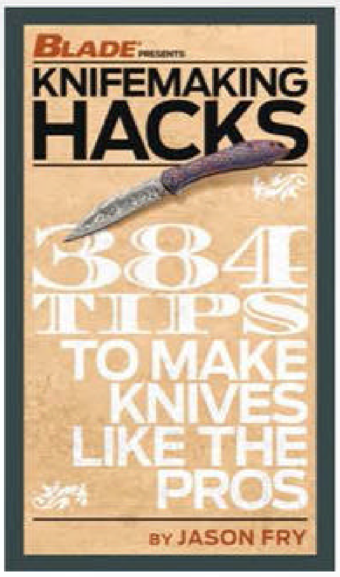
GREATEST LIVING KNIFEMAKERS
R8095 | $65


BLADE PRESENTS
44th Edition
Knives 2024
The World's Greatest Knife Book
900+ PHOTOS OF CUSTOM FOLDERS, FIXED-BLADES, SWORDS & CHEF'S KNIVES
NEW EDITION EVERY YEAR!
NEW FACTORY KNIVES FOR HUNTING, CAMPING AND EDC
EDITED BY JOE KERTZMAN

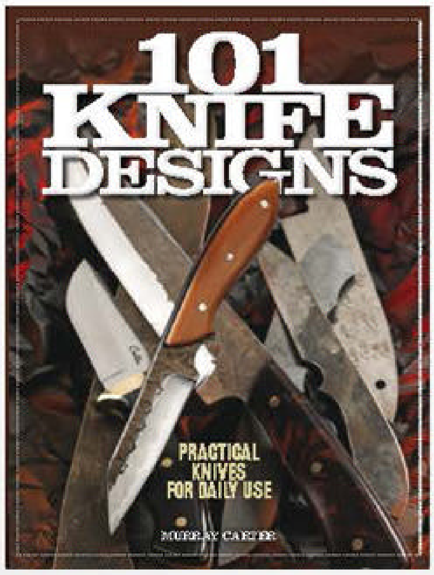
KNIVES 2024
S8434 | $39.99


Knifemaking with Bob Loveless
Build Knives with a Living Legend
HARDCOVER
Durwood Hollis

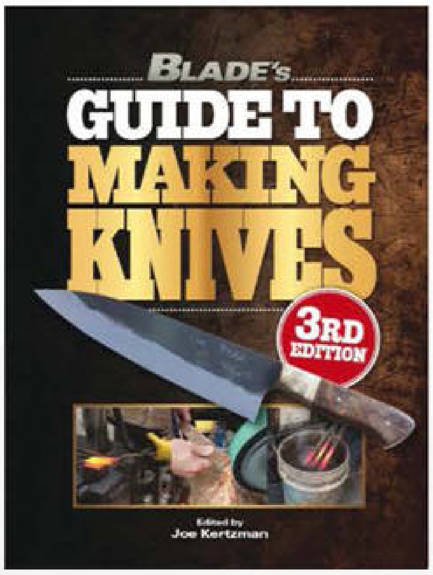
KNIFEMAKING WITH BOB LOVELESS
Z7240 | $45


BLADE PRESENTS
KNIFEMAKING HACKS
384 TIPS TO MAKE KNIVES LIKE THE PROS
BY JASON FRY

KNIFEMAKING HACKS
R8116 | $29.99


101 KNIFE DESIGNS
PRACTICAL KNIVES FOR DAILY USE
MURRAY CARTER

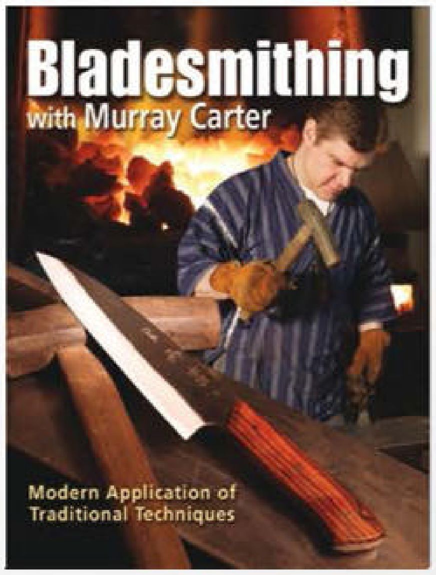
101 KNIFE DESIGNS
U1059 | $44.99


BLADE'S GUIDE TO MAKING KNIVES
3RD EDITION
Edited by Joe Kertzman

BLADE'S GUIDE TO MAKING KNIVES 3$^{\text{RD}}$ EDITION
R0860 | $44.99

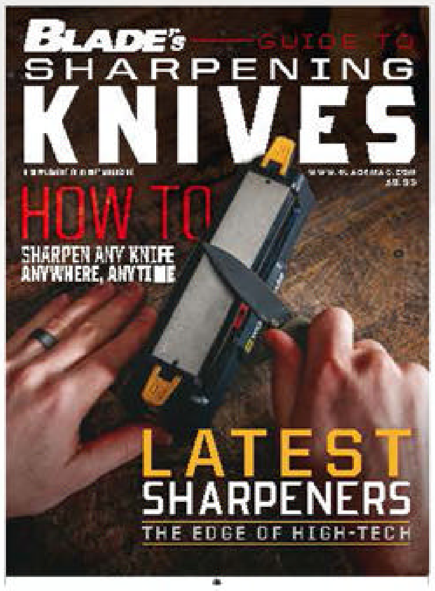
Wayne Goddard's
$50 Knife Shop
REVISED
Get Started Without Spending a Fortune
ALL-TIME BEST SELLER!
NOW IN COLOR

WAYNE GODDARD'S $50 KNIFE SHOP
WGBWR | $29.99


Bladesmithing with Murray Carter
Modern Application of Traditional Techniques

BLADESMITHING WITH MURRAY CARTER
W1852 | $34.99

SPECIAL MAGAZINE ISSUES


BLADE'S GUIDE TO SHARPENING KNIVES
HOW TO SHARPEN ANY KNIFE ANYWHERE, ANYTIME
LATEST SHARPENERS
THE EDGE OF HIGH-TECH

BLADE'S GUIDE TO SHARPENING KNIVES
$9.95

BLADE PRESENTS
COLLECTING Knives
$9.95
WHICH KNIVES TO COLLECT & WHY
COLLECTIBLE KNIVES
HOW TO IDENTIFY
NEW EDITION EVERY YEAR!
KEYS TO FINE FIT AND FINISH

BLADE PRESENTS: COLLECTING KNIVES
$9.95

NEW KNIVES & ACCESSORIES FOR THE NEW YEAR
LATEST FOLDERS FIRST LOOK!
BLADE PRESENTS
COMPLETE KNIFE GUIDE
CUSTOM KNIVES
KNIFEMAKERS TO WATCH
HOT HANDLES
FACTORY FUTURES
TOP TRENDS FOR 2024
EXCLUSIVE!
CUTLERY INDUSTRY DIRECTORY

2024 COMPLETE KNIFE GUIDE
$9.99

For best prices, shop online at **shopblade.com**

Or order directly at **920.471.4522, ext 104**

WHERE TO NET 'EM

A.G. Russell Knives, Inc.
www.agrussell.com
ag@agrussell.com

A.G. Russell
The Cutting Edge®
www.cuttingedge.com
ce-asst@cuttingedge.com

Admiral Steel
www.admiralsteel.com
sales@admiralsteel.com
Widest Range of Stock for Blade Needs

Andre de Villiers
www.advtactical.co.za
Facebook - Andre de Villiers
Facebook Group - ADV SOB BADNESS
IG - advtactical
adv44sales@gmail.com
Butcher SOB folders and button lock flippers

Arizona Custom Knives
www.arizonacustomknives.com
sharptalk@arizonacustomknives.com
Largest selection in the world of new and consigned knives on the internet.
Let us help you find the perfect knife

Artknives.com
www.artknives.com
fred@fredeisenleather.com

BladeGallery.com
www.bladegallery.com
www.bladeconnection.com
www.epicedge.com

Buckeye Engraving
www.BuckeyeEngraving.com
Make Your Mark
Manufacturer of Custom Hand Stamps, Dies and Brands

Cutlery Specialties
www.restorationproduct.com
dennis13@aol.com
Renaissance Micro-Crystalline Wax/Polish, Dennis Blaine

Ed Fowler Knives
www.edfowler.com
eafwb@wyoming.com
High Endurance Performance Knives

Emerson Knives, Inc.
100% Made In The USA
https://emersonknives.com
310-539-5633

Farina Fine Arts
www.farinafinearts.com
studio@farinafinearts.com
One of a kind, fine art, collectible knives

Knife Center
www.knifecenter.com
info@knifecenter.com

New Graham Knives
www.newgraham.com
mdye@newgraham.com

Plaza Cutlery
www.plazacutlery.com
dan@plazacutlery.com
Reeve, Randall, Rockstead, ADV, Spartan, ProTech, Olamic and Others

PVK
www.PVK.com
702-704-4069

RECON 1
www.Recon1.com
sales@Recon1.com
Your number one source for Custom Knives, Shirogorov Knives, and WingManEDC Knives

Red Hill Cutlery
Home of the World's Largest Pocketknife
www.redhillcutlery.com
jrbasham@bbtel.com

Santa Fe Stoneworks
www.santafestoneworks.com
Sales@santafestoneworks.com
Unique one of a kind gemstone handled cutlery

Sooner State Knives
www.soonerstateknives.com
ssknives@swbell.net

Stcroixblades.com
info@stcroixblades.com
Large Collection Buyer, & Retailer
Knives, & Japanese Swords

To List Your Website Please Contact:
Lori McDaniel:715-498-3768 • lori@gundigest.com

ADVERTISERS' INDEX

A
A.G. Russell........5
Admiral Steel........43
American Bladesmith Society, Inc........55
Arizona Custom Knives........47
Artisan Cutlery/CJRB........3

B
Blacksmith's Depot........55
Blacksmith Supply LLC........45
BladeGallery/Takefu Steel........17
Blue Ridge Knives........7
Bradford Knives........44
Buckeye Engraving........65

C
Case Knives........2
Chris Reeve Knives........8
CobraTec Knives LLC........35
Condor Tool & Knife........42
Cuttway........29

D
Damasteel AB........83
Dan Morphy Auction........9
Dave Ellis/Exquisiteknives.com........37

E
Evenheat Kiln, Inc........65

F
Fallkniven........37

G
Giant Mouse Knives........43

H
Hawkins Knifemaking Supplies........80

J
Jantz Supply........23
Jantz Supply........27

K
KA-BAR Knives........31
Kizer Cutlery........84
Knives Plus........80

L
Lansky Sharpeners........5

M
Maker Material Supply........51
Masecraft Supply Co........51
Mcusta Knives USA........45

N
NC Tool Company........42
Niagara Specialty Metals........31
Nordic Knives........7
North Mountain Blade........54

O
Olamic Cutlery........53
Oregon Knife Collectors Association........54

P
Phenix Knives........53
Pro-Tech Knives, LLC........35
PVK.COM........11

R
Randall Made Knives........80

S
Slickbald Customs........59
Smoky Mountain Knife Works........19
Spartan Blades........65
Sypderco........8

T
TOPS Knives........15
Tru-Grit........80

V
VZ Grips........50

W
White River Knife & Tool Inc........54

X
Xcalibur MetalworkX........29

The advertisers' index is provided as a reader service. Occasional last-minute changes may result in ads appearing on pages other than those listed here. The publisher assumes no liability for omissions or errors.

Don't Miss the Next
BLADE MAGAZINE
ORDER YOUR ADVERTISING TODAY!

Lori McDaniel
Advertising Sales
715-498-3768
lori@gundigest.com

Issue: March 2025
Ad Deadline: 01/04/2025

HAWKINS KNIFE MAKING SUPPLIES
110 BUCKEYE RD., FAYETTEVILLE, GA 30214
PHONE 770-964-1023
Contact us for your
Knifemaking Supplies and Equipment!
www.HawkinsKnifeMakingSupplies.com
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

3M · BADER · BALDOR · BURR KING · DEERFOS · DAMASTEEL · DYNABRADE · ELECTRO CHEM · ETCH · EVENHEAT · HARDCORE PRODUCTS · WILTON · WALTER · VSM · SURGI-SHARP · STANDARD ABRASIVES · PEARL · NORTON · MERIT · KLINGSPOR · KALAMAZOO · HERMES

TRU-GRIT©
THE LEADING EDGE IN ABRASIVES AND KNIFEMAKING SUPPLIES
SINCE 1978

760 East Francis Street, Unit N
Ontario, California 91761

(909) 923-4116
trugritinc@gmail.com

ABRASIVE BELTS, BLOCKS, DISCS, PADS, ROLLS, STONES & WHEELS · ADHESIVES · BLADE BLANKS · BUFFERS · BUFFING WHEELS · CARBON FIBER · COMPOUNDS · DAMASCUS · ETCHING SUPPLIES · KILNS · GRINDERS · HANDLE MATERIALS · HARDWARE · HEAT TREATING PRODUCTS & SERVICES · KNIFE CASES · KYDEX · LINERS · MACHINES & ACCESSORIES · MOSAIC PINS · PARTS · SAFETY PRODUCTS · SCOTCH-BRITE™ · SHARPENING SUPPLIES · SHEETS · STEELS · TITANIUM & MUCH MORE

WANT A RAZOR EDGE?

- No experience needed
- Just pull backwards
- Handmade right here at Knives Plus
- Quick & fast
- Maintenance free
- Tells you when you're finished

KNIVES PLUS STROP BLOCK
800-687-6202 OR WWW.KNIVESPLUS.COM
We are a stocking dealer of most major knife brands since 1987.

Randall Made Knives

4857 South Orange Blossom Trail
Orlando, Florida 32839

407-855-8075

NEW 80TH ANNIVERSARY CATALOG – PRICE $2.00
INTL. MAILING – CATALOG US $6.00 http://www.randallknives.com

BLADE
THE WORLD'S #1 KNIFE PUBLICATION

NEXT IN *BLADE*®

MAILED TO SUBSCRIBERS IN EARLY JANUARY

ANNUAL TACTICAL ISSUE

- •DAGGERS AND BOOT KNIVES
- •NEW TACTICAL FOLDERS
- •JAPANESE-STYLE FIXED BLADES
- •LATEST BALISONGS
- •SHARP SEAXES
- •WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A KNIFEMAKER
- •CUSTOM TACTICAL FIXED BLADES

BLADE

WWW.RECOIL.TV

RECOILTV

HONEST. RELEVANT. UNFILTERED.

THE PREMIER AUTHORITY FOR FIREARMS NEWS AND MEDIA THE WAY YOU WANT AND DESERVE.

RecoilTV is a **2A** friendly streaming platform created to entertain and inform you on the latest guns and gear associated with the firearms lifestyle.

DOWNLOAD THE FREE APP

AVAILABLE ON

Download on the App Store

Download on Apple TV

GET IT ON Google Play

Roku

fire tv

Chromecast

PRESENTED BY

BCM®

Smith & Wesson

SIGHTMARK

B5 SYSTEMS

EOTECH

INFORCE

5.11

TIMNEY TRIGGERS USA

PULSAR

Kimber

AERO PRECISION

MATT SMITH
DIRECTOR OF SHEEPDOG RESPONSE
OUTER BELT
INNOVATIVE GEAR
TRAINING
SHEEPDOG RESPONSE
AWARENESS • ASSESSMENT • ACTION • ANALYSIS

Curriculum that empowers people

Addressing the skills you need so you

A series by Green Beret (Special Forces Sniper) and Tim Kennedy (former top 5 UFC Middleweight).

LIBRARY
MATT SMITH
DIRECTOR OF SHEEPDOG RESPO
AWARENESS
ASSESSME

BINGE WATCH IT ON

RECOILTV

WWW.RECOIL.TV | DOWNLOAD THE FREE APP TODAY

BCM® SIGHTMARK® vertx® PULSAR INFORCE

PRESENTED BY

to protect and preserve human life.

and your families can live without fear.

AVAILABLE ON Download on the App Store | Download on Apple TV | GET IT ON Google Play | Roku | fire tv | Chromecast

Lightning Strikes Twice

Jordon Berthelot marries two electric materials in one knife

Jordon Berthelot achieves a hypnotic union of blade and handle materials in his integral hunter. The blade is his HHH lightning damascus and the handle is cottonwood from Robswildwood.

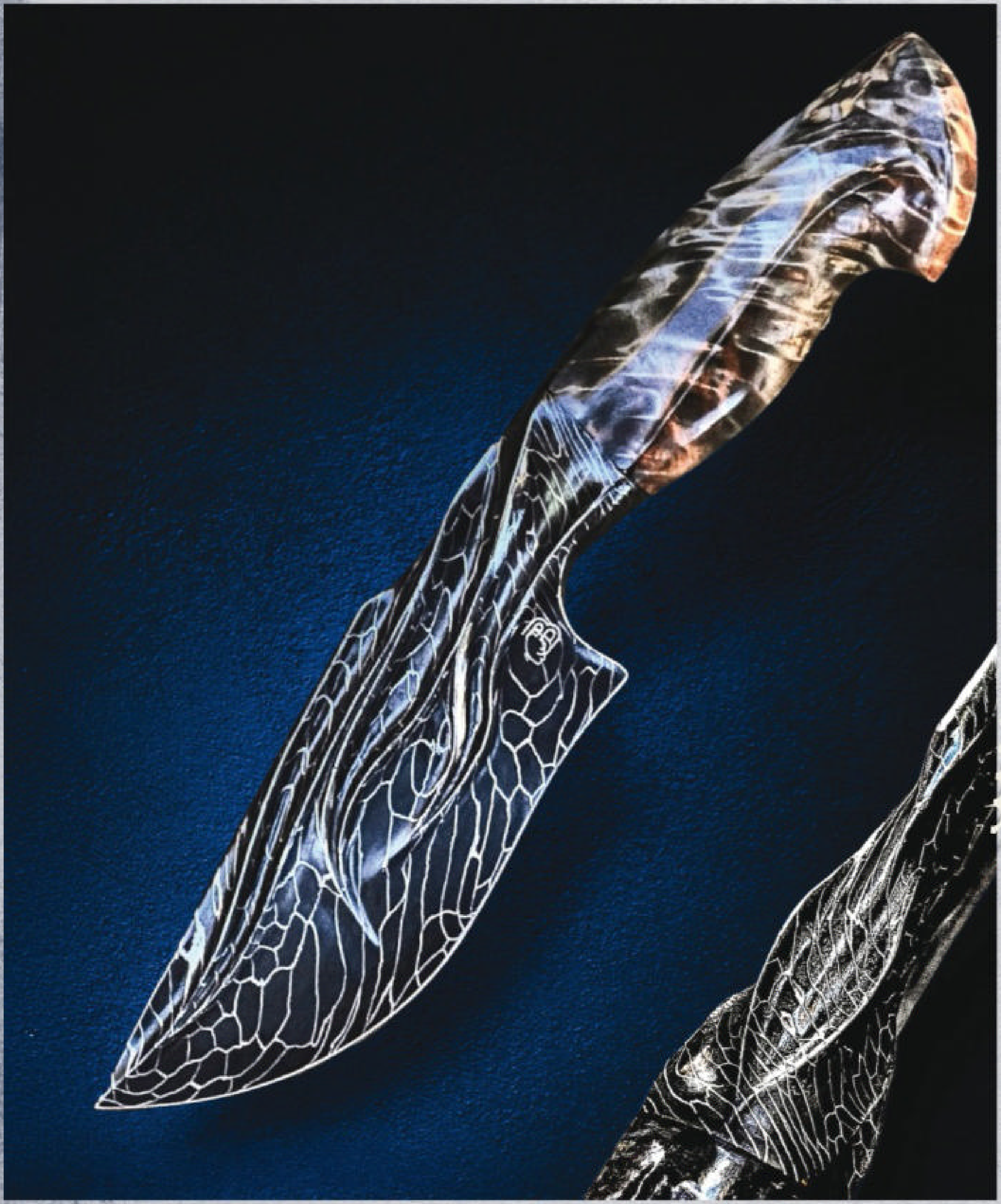
"I used a wide variety of different bits and burrs with Foredom and Dremel tools to freehand carve the blade and handle," he wrote. "As my teacher Spencer Aplin always says, the most difficult part is deciding what to carve and how to give it the flow I want, which is so true. I decided to incorporate the blade carving into the handle so it gave the whole piece a complete look, and also added some great purchase of the handle in multiple different grips."

For more information contact Jordon Berthelot 210-413-6663 Jbblades@yahoo.com, Instagram @jbblades750.

For the latest knives, knife news, trends and more, visit ***blademag.com****,* BLADE®'s *popular Instagram page @* ***blade_magazine****, and on* ***Facebook*** *and* ***Twitter****.*

BLADE

KNIFE: Integral hunter
BLADE LENGTH: 4.5"
BLADE MATERIAL: HHH lightning damascus forged from W1 tool steel/ nickel rods w/4800 powder
HANDLE MATERIAL: Cottonwood from Robswildwood
OVERALL LENGTH: 9"
MAKER'S PRICE FOR A SIMILAR KNIFE: $3,500



"The most difficult part about making this knife is coming up with what to carve, then making everything completely even is a close second," Jordon wrote. "Steve Schwarzer has been a huge inspiration of mine and everyone's knifemaking journey. There have been so many different damascus patterns coming from him and so much phenomenal advice. I'm not sure where a lot of us knifemakers would be without Steve." (images courtesy of Jordon Berthelot)

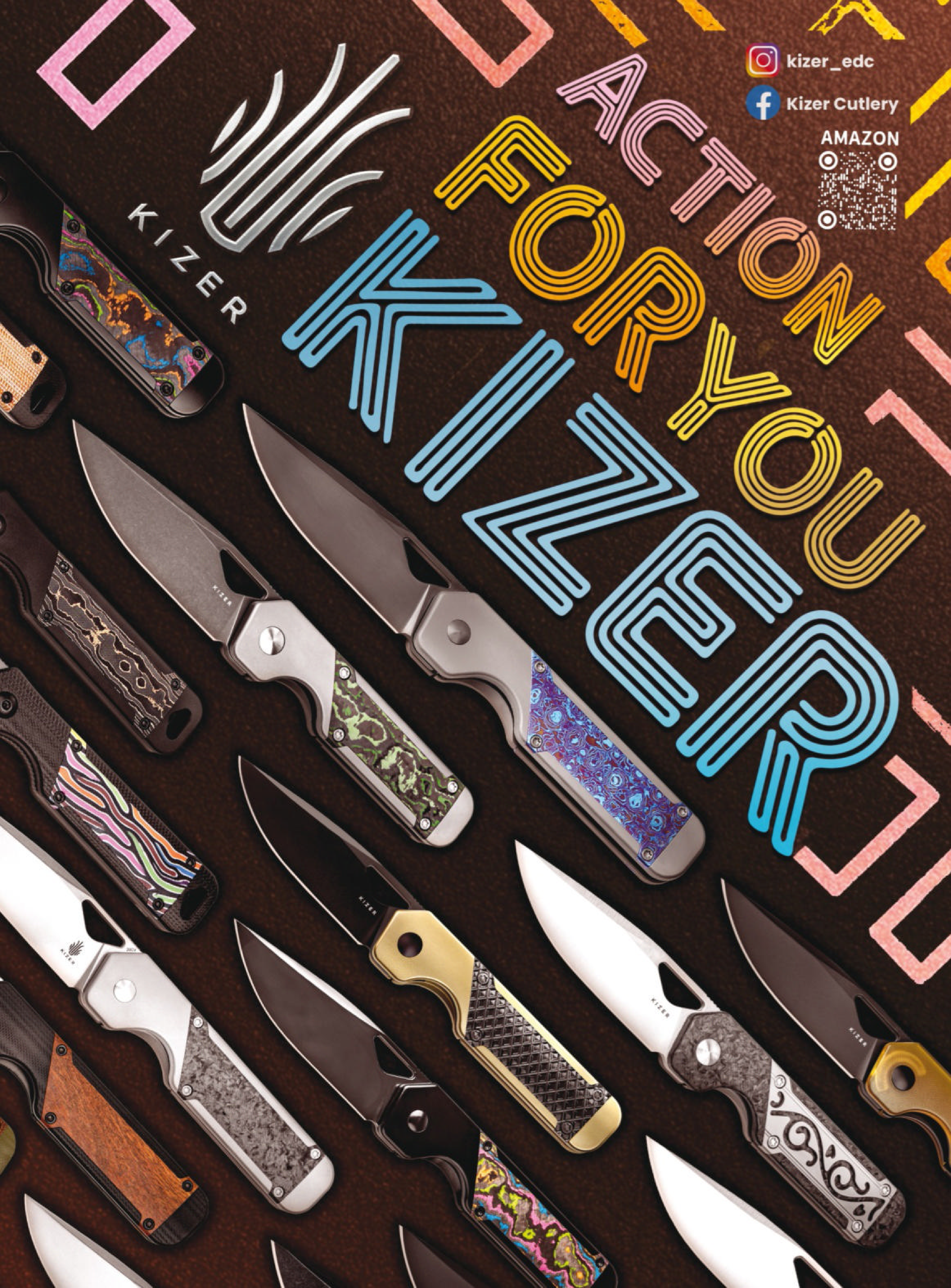
Make it your own.

Kamon Knives, Austria | DS93X Björkmans Twist™
Wave nashiji, short neck cleaver on a
D-shape handle made from charred x-cut ash
with black Titanium torpedo end caps.

SÖDERFORS 1676
DAMASTEEL®

CUTTING EDGE. AND LOOKS TOO.™

shop.damasteel.com


kizer_edc
Kizer Cutlery
AMAZON
KIZER
ACTION FOR YOU
KIZER
KIZER